

No EC intervention in peace talks

COPENHAGEN (AP) — The European Community (EC) supports the Middle East peace process but will not intervene directly in the talks between Israel and the Arabs, Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said Tuesday. "It's up to the (involved parties) and them alone to find solutions to the central questions in the conflict that has dominated developments in the Middle East for 45 years," Mr. Ellemann-Jensen said after meeting with the head of the Palestinian delegation. The chief of the Palestinian delegation Haidar Abdul Shafi, accompanied by an adviser to Yasser Arafat, met with the Danish foreign minister during a stopover on their way to Washington (see story below). "I want to stress that Denmark, along with our EC partners, actively supports the peace process," Mr. Ellemann-Jensen said. He said that "we would make every effort to ensure progress, (but) external actors can't undertake the directly involved parties job."

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gerlans told not to expect early polls

GIERS (R) — Prime Minister said Abdul Salam told Algerians Tuesday not to expect early elections, saying he needed time to restore security and restart the economy. Mr. Abdul Salam, who is also economy minister, has said he needs at least three years to turn round the economy. "One must forget political desires. We must put an end to those who are speculating on political future," he told the National Consultative Council, a member advisory body appointed by the authorities in absence of a parliament. "We don't know the time it will take to take this direction," he said in a meeting on his government's programme. "We find ourselves in a situation which permits the holding of elections application of the constitution."

S. gives Egypt \$3m for relief

IRO (R) — The United States gave Egypt \$3 million in aid Tuesday to rebuild infrastructure damaged during last week's earthquake, the American embassy in a statement on Tuesday. Egypt has now received aid for over \$230 million since the earthquake, which killed at least 552 people and left thousands homeless.

inesty hits abuse children's rights

NDON (R) — Governments and the world are specifically attacking children for human rights violations, and are torturing, killing or arbitrarily detaining them, Amnesty International said Tuesday. "Children and young people are particularly vulnerable, but instead of protecting them, all too often we see armed forces killing, torturing, imprisoning them," the London-based human rights organisation said. Amnesty said many countries where human rights violations were carried out included the United States, South Africa, Brazil, India, Somalia, Israel, Turkey, Syria, Peru. Over the past 10 years, countries were known to have executed young people for crimes they committed when still minors, Amnesty said, adding the largest confirmed number of executions — five — happened in the United States.

ike cripples UNI

DELHI (AP) — A strike Tuesday over the firing of a worker by the country's second largest newspaper, United News of India, left 350 employees at the news agency's headquarters in New Delhi walked off their jobs Monday evening after chief accountant Anil Kedia was fired for inefficiency. The United News of India (UNI) workers' union said staffers at other offices also joined the indefinite strike to protest the "dictatorial, arbitrary and unlawful" sacking, saying action they have sent a message that no employee's job is sacred, said a union official.

al for Honecker go ahead

LIN (AP) — Former East German leader Erich Honecker went on trial Nov. 12 for alleged involvement in the deaths of 17 people trying to escape from his country even though he suffers from liver cancer, officials announced Tuesday. Mr. Honecker, 80, was returned to Germany on July 29 from exile in France after fighting for 17 years to avoid trial.

opposition says 00 executed

SLA (R) — The main Shiite opposition group said Tuesday the Baghdad government had executed about 50,000 people in the 18 months since the south rose in rebellion immediately after the Gulf War. The Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), in a statement to Reuters, said the government was also holding more than 250,000 detainees.

Palestinians fear Clinton win will stall peace talks

Combined agency dispatches

THE ELECTION of Bill Clinton as U.S. president would delay the Middle East peace talks while he organised his administration, the head of the Palestinian delegation said Tuesday.

"We have received assurance that they (a Clinton administration) will continue supporting the talks," said Haidar Abdul Shafi, the Palestinians' chief delegate in the talks.

"We have no worries about the Clinton administration as they have good advisers," Dr. Abdul Shafi told a news conference during a stopover in Copenhagen on the way to Washington. But he acknowledged that Clinton's election would mean a delay of the peace talks as they would have to organise his administration.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said there also was no worry if President George Bush were reelected. "Bush and (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker have initiated the talks and they feel concerned about the talks. They want to go on," Nabil Shaath, an adviser to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, told the news conference. "The talks have been going on for a year now but nothing has happened. We reserve the right to step out of the talks if no progress is made."

"A peace solution must come forward within the next six months. Our people need that peace," said Mr. Shaath, who is not a member of the Palestinian delegation, but travels with it to the talks.

The seventh round of talks among Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians was to begin Tuesday in Washington. The sixth round ended Sept. 23, with no progress on substantive issues.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had sent messages to all the parties in an effort to get the talks moving.

"We've been in touch with the parties between rounds, and we think that there are real opportunities here to do something in this next round," he said. He declined to provide details of the messages.

Israeli cabinet ministers said Israel had done its part to advance the peace talks and it was up to Syria and the Palestinians to forge a breakthrough.

Israel's delegation to the talks left Tuesday for the seventh round of talks against a backdrop of uncertainties spun by the U.S. elections.

"We have been having serious talks and what is needed now are answers from the Syrians and from the Palestinians. It depends entirely on them," Police Minister Moshe Shahal said.

Asked after a cabinet meeting if Israel was taking new ideas to Washington, he said: "We presented very practical, very serious proposals. What is needed now are the answers from either side."

Mr. Shahal accused Palestinians of failing to coordinate answers to Israeli proposals on interim self-rule.

"It is a time for decisions. Any delay will serve only the extreme factions. There are problems within the Palestinian leadership. They are split and divided," Mr. Shahal said.

"With the Syrians there is a leader who knows what he wants and can decide. Among the Palestinians there is a problem of leadership and they have to take decisions which are needed very much," he said.

Palestinian leaders said before leaving for Washington there was frustration among the 1.75 million Arabs of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because a year of talks with Israel had produced no concrete results.

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GCC ready to drop boycott for freeze of settlement

RIYADH (AP) — The six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are prepared to end their economic embargo of Israel if the Jewish state stops building settlements in the occupied territories, an official said.

But he complained bitterly in an interview that the Israelis had not done so and had responded negatively to goodwill demonstrated when the Arabs agreed to the U.S.-led peace process that began a year ago in Madrid.

"We always take the positive steps. And what do we get from Israel? The daily killing of Palestinians," said Seif Al Maskeri, assistant secretary-general of the GCC, which groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Each time the Arab states take positive steps, the Israeli side takes backward steps. Since Madrid, notice how many Palestinians have been killed, how many settlements have been built, how many attacks on South Lebanon and how many threats to Syria. Do you think this will help peace?" Mr. Maskeri said.

Saudi Arabia announced willingness to drop the 40-year-old boycott after a July 1991 visit to Riyadh by former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who was then trying to get the various parties to agree to the peace talks.

The Mideast talks have so far mainly involved the parties directly in conflict with Israel through bilateral talks set to resume in Washington Wednesday.

The rest of the Arabs, especially the Gulf group led by Saudi Arabia, are ready for involvement in multilateral talks that will deal with overall aspects of ending the state of war with Israel once the issue of Arab land occupied by Israel since 1967 is settled.

The Israeli chamber of commerce earlier this year estimated the boycott had cost it more than \$40 billion. It said Israel could have earned \$20 billion in exports to the Arab markets while the boycott stopped an inflow of investments estimated at more than \$20 billion.

Aside from closing their doors to any dealings with Israel, the Arabs abide by the boycott rulings that blacklisted thousands of American, European and other firms for dealing economically with the Jewish state.

In recent years the boycott has been relaxed in several ways. Companies such as Ford and Coca-Cola long blacklisted, have been allowed to return to the lucrative Gulf region.

Mr. Maskeri said in the interview that the group of oil-rich

countries had agreed to end the boycott if Israel agreed to a freeze on settlements in the occupied territories.

But a senior militia officer said Tuesday the withdrawal has been suspended until Mr. Hekmatyar pulls back his forces from the southern edge of the city, where they have been waging sporadic firefights with government troops.

"If we take one step, the other side must do the same. Lieutenant-General Jura Baig. 'We're waiting for Hekmatyar to reciprocate.'"

Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction has terrorised Kabul for months, bombarding the city with rockets and demanding the militia leave and return to northern Afghanistan. Thousands have been killed or wounded.

Hezb-e-Islami officers denied there was any agreement to pull back troops from their bases.

"This just never happened," said Abdul Haidi, a Hekmatyar commander who accused the government of taking potshots at Hezb-e-Islami guerrillas to provoke Mr. Hekmatyar into an all-out battle.

Mr. Hekmatyar refused to participate in the government that took power from the former regime in April.

"Every night they are firing on our frontline with machine-guns and grenade launchers trying to provoke us. And every day we are getting orders not to react," said Mr. Haidi. "We are doing our best not to be provoked."

Government offers to step down, page 2



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday meeting with Jordan Press Association President Salehman Al Qudah (fourth from left) and members of the JPA board. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddine (second from left), Information Minister Mahmud Sharif (left), and Prime Minister's Press Advisor Ali Safadi (fifth from right).

Sharif Zeid pledges support for Jordan Press Association

JPA urges objectivity in court coverage

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday pledged that his government would strive to carry out His Majesty King Hussein's directives to help the Jordan Press Association (JPA) set up its own office and club in Amman.

Speaking at a meeting in his office with JPA President Salehman Al Qudah and JPA board members, Sharif Zeid said the government was concerned over journalists' problems and would do all it can to help improve their conditions.

Expressing confidence in Jordanian journalists and their responsible efforts at all levels, the prime minister voiced pride in the journalists working for the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and their distinguished work, which, he said, "reflected Jordan's bright image and national policies to the outside world."

Petra has a heavy burden to shoulder and therefore it is only reasonable for the agency's journalists to get additional allowances and incentives that commensurate with their heavy load of work, he said.

He said the JPA should receive the support and funds from various sources as stipulated in the JPA law.

At the outset of the meeting, the prime minister was briefed on the JPA's problems.

Mr. Qudah said the JPA was looking to the government to help it set up its own permanent office and a club for Jordanian journalists. The JPA also hopes

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U.N. experts in Iraq say inspections useful

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The head of the biggest U.N. arms inspection team to visit Iraq said Monday a third day of field work had been useful but declined to say what the experts had found.

"They (inspections) are useful," Nikita Smidovich told reporters in Baghdad. "That is why we are here."

But the tight-tipped Smidovich refused to be more specific about what his 50-member team had discovered, saying he was sending a daily report to the U.N. special commission in New York which is charged with the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"Our normal procedure is that we have to report everything to New York on what is happening," he said.

"We visited several facilities. We're in the process of collecting information. We'll continue to do that," Mr. Smidovich added.

The major task of Mr. Smidovich's mission is to verify intelligence reports that Iraq may still have hundreds of Scud missiles left over from an arsenal of 819 either bought from the Soviet Union or developed domestically in the form of extended-range variants — the Al Hussein, Al Abbas and Sejeel.

Iraq fired some of these missiles during its eight-year war with Iran and the 1991 war over Kuwait.

Mr. Smidovich said some of the information he has gathered so far was obtained from discussions

with his Iraqi counterparts.

"We sometimes get (information) from documents, sometimes oral discussions," the Russian expert said.

Asked whether the documents were related to Iraq's Soviet-made Scud missiles, he said: "I would not comment on that."

U.N. inspectors have verified the destruction of all Iraq's declared ballistic missile material including 150 Scuds, dozens of launchers and launch pads and all known production equipment.

Iraq, which is obliged under the Gulf war ceasefire terms to scrap missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, and means of producing them, says it has nothing more to declare.

U.N. ballistic missile experts held meetings with Iraqi missile experts after Monday's inspections, triggering rumours that they have come across vital information that could lead to new discoveries. There was, however, no confirmation on their findings.

As Mr. Smidovich spoke, U.N. staff hauled large cardboard containers into the Sheraton Hotel that looked as if they had been filled and sealed in a hurry.

Mr. Smidovich's 50-member team is the 45th to come to Baghdad and the largest so far.

Over the past year, U.N. experts have overseen the dismantling of much of Iraq's nuclear programme and destroyed missiles and chemical weapons as well as the research centres and factories associated with them.

UAE wants peaceful end to dispute with Tehran; Bahrain rejects Qatari move

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has said it wants to solve peacefully a dispute with Iran over three strategic Gulf islands, using more conciliatory language than it has recently on the issue.

In other Gulf disputes, Bahrain Monday repeated its call on Qatar that the two countries jointly take their border quarrel to the International Court at the Hague.

And Saudi Arabia again pressed Qatar to help select an international company to demarcate their disputed frontier, after a border clash last month in which two people were killed.

The UAE made its latest statement after a meeting between its Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah and Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid late Sunday.

"The UAE and the Arab League affirmed the wish to Arab states to solve the dispute with Iran by peaceful means in accordance with international agreements," it said.

Iran recently claimed full sovereignty over the island of Abu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz and reiterated its claim to two other small islands, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. Tehran's claim outraged the Arab World and was denounced by the Arab League.

The latest UAE call omitted the strong language Abu Dhabi has used in recent statements on the dispute.

It made no reference to the UAE's demand that Iranian forces withdraw from the Tunbs, which they have occupied for two decades; and it did not threaten to take the dispute to the U.N. Security Council, as it has in the past.

Diplomatic sources said Syria, which has good relations both with the Gulf Arab countries and with Iran, would start a second mediation bid between the two countries. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the central Gulf, Bahrain's dispute with Qatar over small reefs in the waters between the two countries has flared up periodically.

Last year, Qatar spurned Saudi mediation and went to the World Court in the Hague. Bahrain has been insisting that should have been a joint application.

In a statement Monday, the Bahrain Foreign Ministry reiterated that call. For the first time, the ministry also spelt out clearly that Bahrain wants a full delineation of territorial waters — not just a decision over custody of the reefs.

"The difference...is not over islands but it is a case of defining the maritime borders," it said.

It said Qatar's petition to the International Court of Justice over the territorial dispute was a waste of time.

A Foreign Ministry official said his country had received from the Hague Qatar's response to Bahrain's rejection of its request to the World Court to decide the dispute and that the Manama government would respond soon.

"Bahrain still has the same position that all points of disagreement...should be taken to the International Court of Justice through signing an agreement between the two countries so as to put the issue on the right path," the Gulf News Agency (GNA) quoted the official as saying.

He said Qatar's lone request to the court had led to side debates rather than "to ways of settling the main issue of disagreement between the two countries."

Bahrain rejected Qatar's unilateral application on June 11 and reiterated calls for Doha to submit a joint petition in line with a December 1990 agreement mediated by Saudi Arabia.

Qatar went alone to the court in July 1991 asking it to decide its claim on a number of barren but potentially oil rich islands, sandbanks and reefs between the two countries.

Some lie close to the Qatari mainland but are controlled by Bahrain under a border demarcation decided when Britain handed the foreign affairs of the two states during the 1930s.

The World Court began assessing its own competence to judge the issue in June but Gulf-based diplomats say it is unlikely to reach a decision on even this step before 1995.

Afghan government offers to step down

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's interim Islamic government said Monday it would step down in favour of new rulers chosen by a council expected to meet next month.

The announcement on official Kabul Radio came as former communist militia began leaving the capital as part of a ceasefire agreement between the government and dissident Mujahideen guerrillas.

"The Islamic government is ready to transfer power to a new leadership which will be appointed by the Hal-o-Aqd council," the broadcast quoted a government statement as saying.

The statement gave no date for the council, which must be held when President Burhanuddin Rabbani's four-month term ends on Oct. 28. It said only that the council would meet on schedule and urged all Mujahideen groups to make it a success.

Some Mujahideen leaders have voiced fears Rabbani would delay the power transfer, a move that could precipitate more fighting with rival Mujahideen parties.

Amid shouts of "Long live Islam", the first batch of former communist militia flew out of Kabul after months of demands by Mujahideen chiefs that they should withdraw.

"If the withdrawal continues and every day big numbers leave the city, there will be peace in Kabul," Syed Aziz, delegate of the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami on a commission trying to restore peace in Kabul.

"Long live Islam, God is great," shouted 200 militia troops as they ran across the tarmac of Kabul airport. "We hate war, we want peace."

The former communist fighters flew out aboard two military transport planes to the northern stronghold of their powerful Uzbek leader, General Rashid Dostum, in Mazar-i-Sharif.

"We are carrying out the orders of the Defence Ministry," said a militia general who declined to comment further.

The Afghan capital erupted in an explosion of sound and jubilation as Mujahideen celebrated the militia departure by firing volleys of tracer bullets into the night sky.

Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar launched a

blistering rocket bombardment of Kabul last August, in which more than 2,500 civilians were killed, to back his demand for the eviction of the militia.

The defection of the militia to the Mujahideen brought down the government of former communist President Najibullah last April and precipitated the entry of the Mujahideen to Kabul. Mr. Hekmatyar brands them as traitors.

The withdrawal of communist forces from the government army in Kabul as well as those who joined Mr. Hekmatyar's armies was stipulated in the ceasefire negotiated by the peace commission to end the fighting in August.

Peace commission leader Shomali Khan welcomed the pullout, saying: "If this process continues we assure Kabul residents there will be no more fighting."

Mr. Hekmatyar had agreed to disarm any ex-communists found in his forces, Mr. Shomali said.

Mr. Rabbani's coalition delayed the pullout, saying the militia had been absorbed into its army.

The Defence Ministry says there are 2,580 militia in Kabul, but some Mujahideen parties say the numbers are much higher.

"The decision to start withdrawing the northern forces was taken for a combination of political, military and security reasons," said General Rahim Wardak, the recently appointed army chief of staff.

He did not rule out a future role for the Uzbek militia, widely hated in Kabul where residents accuse them of looting and rape.

"There will be a place for all nationalities...in the new Islamic army," said Gen. Wardak, who appeared at the airport dressed for the first time in his new uniform of army fatigues with red epaulettes and a black beret.

Noorullah Emad, representative of Mr. Rabbani's fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami party to an election commission, said the decision to remove the militia had been taken by Mr. Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud.

Mr. Emad denied that they had agreed to withdraw the former communist only after intense pressure from other groups.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb damages Israeli troop carrier

MARIYATOUN, Lebanon (R) — A guerrilla bomb damaged an Israeli troop carrier in the Jewish state's "security zone" in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. No one was hurt when the roadside bomb exploded as the vehicle passed between the villages of Marakaba and Tallouneh, he said. Some 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,000 allied Lebanese militiamen hold the 15 kilometres deep zone set up in 1985 to block guerrilla raids on the Jewish state.

Captor of Saudi ambassador jailed

SANAA (R) — A Yemeni court Monday sentenced Abdullah Ali Jameel Al Mattari to three years in prison for holding Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Sanaa captive for \$1 million ransom. A Yemeni policeman disguised as a servant overpowered Mr. Mattari and freed Ambassador Ali Mohammad Al Qutaidi who was held hostage for 18 hours last April. Mr. Mattari's lawyer said he would appeal the court's verdict.

Greece seizes Turkish boat in Aegean

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish boat carrying yacht race spectators was arrested by a Greek patrol boat in the Aegean on Monday and towed to the island of Kos, Turkish Television reported. Those aboard, contacting the mainland by radio, said the incident took place in international waters but they were accused of entering Greek waters, the television said. It said the seven captives 11 people, four of them journalists. They were watching the Bodrum Yacht Cup.

Turkish premier to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will pay two-day official visit to Pakistan from Oct. 24, the official AFP news agency said Monday. Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited Turkey last month.

Greece and Turkey to meet on Iraqi refugees

ATHENS (R) — Greece and Turkey will start talks Wednesday to try to resolve disputes over illegal refugees, Greece said Monday. The initial focus of the talks will be a group of Iraqi refugees stranded aboard a ship between the two countries for the past 13 days. Seventy-seven Iraqis arrived at Greece's Aegean island of Kos on a Turkish boat two weeks ago. Nine refugees from the ship were taken to hospital but Athens refused to accept the others and tried to send them to Turkey on a Greek vessel. Turkey refused them entry and sent the refugees back. Since then the ship has remained in international waters between Kos and the Turkish coast, with Greek and Turkish navy ships nearby. Twenty-nine Iraqis drowned last month when a boat carrying them from Turkey capsized off the Greek island of Chios near the Turkish coast. Greek officials say hundreds of Iraqis and Kurds have fled to Greek islands from Turkey this year.

Iran says saboteurs sent by Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has arrested a number of Iranians and Iraqis sent into Iran on bombing missions by the Iraqi secret police, Tehran Radio said Tuesday. It named an Iranian and an Iraqi among those arrested and said Iranian security forces were hunting down other agents responsible for a recent spate of bombings in Iran. It said Qassem Mohammad Al Bayati, an Iraqi, said in a confession that the Baghdad secret police had sent him to the secret police branch in Baghdad, northeast of the Iraqi capital. "There is a man named Moqaddas Robh Hussein trained him and he was given bombs to plant in Tehran," it said. An Iraqi secret police officer known as Abu Omar commissioned another man named Hedayat Fatahi, an Iranian name, to take bombs to plant in the west Iranian city of Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the radio added. It said another man with an Iranian name, Mohammad Javad Saberi Fakhreghazi, was killed when the bomb he was preparing exploded in a guest-house near the Tehran airport on Thursday. The radio did not give the total number of people arrested. In September the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian as saying a number of saboteurs sent across the border by Iraq had been arrested. Several bombs have exploded since, including one near the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Oct. 11. The Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group Mujahideen-e-Khalq said its supporters planted that bomb.

Gunmen kill PLO officer in Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Gunmen killed an officer in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in an attack on a cafe in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. A Lebanese civilian sitting nearby was also wounded, they said. The officer, Lieutenant Mohammad Al Attal of the mainstream PLO group Fatah, was killed instantly when the two gunmen opened fire with machineguns in the old quarter of Sidon. The sources said Attal, a fifth Palestinian guerrilla killed in a week, was the victim of a power struggle between Fatah and the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) group. They said Attal had defected from the FRC to join Fatah and escaped an assassination attempt several months ago. The two groups have been fighting since late last year for control of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Turkey, Australia agree on closer ties

ANKARA (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans visited war memorials from the 1915 Gallipoli campaign in Turkey Tuesday after agreeing to expand trade with Turkey and to consult on policy more frequently. A spokesman for the Australian embassy said Mr. Evans and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin had decided the two countries should hold annual political consultations and increase trade now worth \$200 million a year. Mr. Evans told his hosts that Australia recognised what he called Turkey's prominent stabilising role in a tense region stretching from the Balkans to the Middle East and Central Asia. Mr. Cetin said Turkey would sign the chemical weapons convention prepared by the Geneva-based Convention on Disarmament and would apply to join the 22-nation Australia Group, which is promoting national export controls in line with the convention. The embassy spokesman said the two ministers had discussed cooperation in mining, agriculture, education and transport.

Document defending Iraq aid called flawed — report

LOS ANGELES (R) — A U.S. Department of Agriculture report used in recent months by the Bush administration to defend its pre-war aid to Iraq was known to be flawed before it was released in 1990, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

A senior federal investigator cited the deficiencies when he tried to delay publication of the report, which was released after pressure from the administration, the newspaper said.

The Department of Agriculture report arose from an inquiry into allegations that Iraq had misused U.S.-backed loans.

Records show the federal official complained the report represented an incomplete and "rosy" picture of Iraq's "abuse" of the loan programme, which included paying bribes to U.S. exporters and possibly trading food for arms, the Times reported.

The official warned that releasing the report could embarrass the administration, it said.

But, after pressure from President George Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, the Department of Agriculture released the report essentially unchanged, according to the newspaper.

The report said the department's internal auditors had uncovered no evidence Iraq had traded goods bought with U.S. loans for weapons and did not suspend its aid to Baghdad.

"The administration's investigation of Iraqi abuses was a write-wash at best," Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Department, which has been investigating the Iraqi loan guarantees, told the Times.

The latest report casting doubt on the accuracy of the Department of Agriculture document follows questions about a criminal investigation into a \$5 billion loan scheme involving Iraq and the Atlanta branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL).

In the final weeks of the presidential campaign, Democrats have accused the administration of a coverup in the BNL case and White House officials have denied it.

The Department of Agriculture

inquiry that led to the report was initiated in response to evidence uncovered in the BNL investigation, the newspaper said.

When federal agents raided BNL's Atlanta branch in August 1989, they found evidence of \$5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq. Nearly \$2 billion had been guaranteed by the Department of Agriculture to promote U.S. farm exports, the Times said.

In April 1990, a team of Department of Agriculture internal auditors interviewed Iraqi officials in Baghdad and examined documents indicating possible misuse of loans, the Times reported.

All eight Democrats on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Monday formally asked Attorney General William Barr for an independent counsel to investigate the U.S. government's handling of the BNL loans to Iraq.

Mr. Barr has 30 days to reply to the request under provisions of the independent counsel law, which expires on Dec. 15.

"We believe that you should seek appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the possible obstruction of justice that have occurred by officials of the Justice Department, FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," the eight Senate Democrats said in a letter to Mr. Barr.

Mr. Barr on Friday named a former federal judge to review how the case was handled and report back to him, but the Democrats said an independent investigation was needed since the Department of Justice, FBI and CIA were involved.

The CIA recently admitted it sent misleading information about the material it had on the BNL case to the federal prosecutor in Atlanta handling the case.

The letter to Mr. Barr was signed by Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden and committee members Edward Kennedy, Howard Metzenbaum, Patrick Leahy, Paul Simon, Dennis DeConcini, Howell Heflin and Herbert Kohl, all Democrats.

French 'rice for Somalia' programme draws criticism

PARIS (Agencies) — Relief experts, opposition politicians, farmers and teachers Monday criticised a government programme to collect packets of rice from French schoolchildren to help combat famine in Somalia.

The Research and Information Centre for Development, which represents 30 humanitarian groups, said the "rice for Somalia" programme planned Tuesday in schools nationwide was an "illusion" that failed to take into account logistical problems in violence-ravaged Somalia.

"U.N. peacekeeping troops appear practically impotent and delivery of food currently is blocked," the centre said.

"In such conditions, how can we lead our children to believe that the 6,000 to 10,000 tonnes of rice to be collected will reach its destination?" the centre asked in an open letter to the programme's sponsors, Education Minister Jack Lang and Health Minister Bernard Kouchner.

The centre said the programme was "an illusion to disguise the international community's inability to stop the fighting in Somalia." It suggested that schoolchildren write to world political leaders demanding that more be done to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Lang said the programme — conducted at 74,000 schools — is a "gesture of solidarity which will teach our children about this country."

The rice is to be loaded aboard

postal service trucks by high school students and teachers, and taken to Somalia by ship from Marseille. The cargo is expected to arrive about Nov. 20.

Teachers of the Workers Force Labour Federation, in a statement, said the Socialist government should not make students bear responsibility for the fate of Somalia's people, nor force school personnel to participate in a charity operation.

Rural Coordination, a farmers' coalition, said France could have sent nine times more food for the same price if it had used French wheat rather than rice imported from Asia and the United States.

"It troubles us deeply that parents have been pressured to buy rice from abroad at a time when the Americans are waging a trade war to destroy Europe's agriculture," the group said.

Robert Pandraud, a legislator of the conservative Rally for the Republic, said he has asked Premier Pierre Berengery why rice had been chosen.

"Given the difficulties of French farming and flour industries, it would have been better for our trade balance if we'd asked our children to bring French wheat or flour," Mr. Pandraud said.

A French Communist Party official, Francis Wurtz, said the government should follow its "highly limited" initiative with a national debate on the global food crisis.

Germany stops flights

Germany has suspended its aid flights to Mogadishu after a cargo plane was hit by gunfire in the Somali capital, an air force spokesman said Monday.

He said no one was injured in the incident Saturday and the plane returned safely to Mombasa, in Kenya, where relief flights are restarted.

The spokesman said bullet holes were found in the plane's fuselage after it landed in Mombasa.

"It is unclear how this happened. The pilot did not notice anything during" the flight, he told Reuters.

He said Germany had suspended flights to Mogadishu but would continue flying aid to other famine-hit destinations in Somalia.

Germany has delivered around 1,400 tonnes of aid to Somalia, racked by civil war and drought, since Aug. 25 as part of an international effort to help the East African nation's starving people.

Care official named

The head of Care's American division was appointed Monday to oversee international humanitarian aid organisations in Somalia, three days after the head of an affiliated group criticized U.N. handling of the crisis.

Philip Johnston was named

operational manager of the U.N.'s 100-day relief plan for Somalia, where at least 100,000 people have died and two million more are at risk of starving. Dr. Johnston is president and chief executive officer of Care USA, the American arm of the world's largest private relief organisation.

On Friday, Malcolm Fraser, head of Care International and a former Australian prime minister, said in Nairobi, Kenya, that an inadequate United Nations response is threatening international efforts to save Somalia's starving millions.

The U.N. plan to provide relief could founder because of a lack of security and strong diplomacy, Mr. Fraser told a news conference.

Speaking in Kenya's capital after a four-day visit to Somalia, Mr. Fraser said that "unless security improves, much of that plan will fall down. And unless diplomatic efforts are strengthened, it may all fall down."

He also urged "a more coordinated, better focused" international aid programme for Somalia.

Dr. Johnston's appointment appears to be part of the effort to improve the situation. A U.N. press release said he was named "to expedite the effective implementation of the United Nations 100 day action programme."

Dozens of private, U.N. and governmental organisations are shipping food, medicine and other supplies to Somalia.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Documentary
18:30	News in French
19:15	De Cirque
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Wednesday forum
21:30	Chado
22:00	News in English
22:30	Bangkok Hilton
PRAYER TIMES	
04:28	Fajr
05:57	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:21	Dhuhr
14:34	'Asr
17:05	Maghrib
18:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzian Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 777751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman 14/27	
Aqaba 19/30	
Deserts 11/29	
Jordan Valley 18/31	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:	Dr. Mohammad Al Sirwa 732056
	Dr. Basim Qaddumi 640204
	Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
	Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
	First pharmacy 661912
	Ferdous pharmacy 778336
	Al Azzam pharmacy 678336
	Nairn pharmacy 626672
	Al Salam pharmacy 636730
	Al Sabab pharmacy 644945
	Samirah pharmacy 637660
	Nairn pharmacy 626672
	Najla pharmacy 847632
IRBID:	Dr. Ali Al Omari 772032
	Al Sinaa pharmacy 775225
ZARQA:	Dr. Tariq Hijazi 985447
	Rasul pharmacy 995119
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre 637111	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Civil Defence Emergency 690341	
Rescue 199	
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 771121	
Highway Police 843402	
Traffic Police 893390	
Public Security Department 638221	
Police Complaints 605800	
Prior Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897467	
Complaints 787111	
Telephone Information 121	
(directory assistance) 010230	
Overseas Calls 623101	
Central Amman Telephone 623101	
Regents 623101	
Abdullah Telephone Report 774111	
Radio Jordan 680100	
Water Authority 615615	
Electric Power 636381	
Company 06-53200	
RJ Flight Information 06-53200	
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/22	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816	
Al-Salam Maternity, J. Amn. 642412	
Jabal Amman Maternity 622502	
Melha, J. Amman 636140	
Palestine, Shumaila 6641714	
Shumaila Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 662279	
Al-Munir Hospital 662279	
Al-Ahli, Abdal 661277	
Infant, Al-Mahajra 7771013	
Al-Salam, J. Amn. 7751126	
Arzy, Marka 8761115	
Queen Alia Hospital 6224020	
Amal Hospital 674135	
Zarqa 0998333	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 0998333	
Zarqa National Hospital 0998333	
Rn Sina Hospital 0998333	
Al-Hikmah Hospital 0998333	
IRBID:	
Francis Bama Hospital 0272555	
Great Catholic Hospital 0272225	
Im Al-Nasr Hospital 0274700	
AQABA:	
Prince Hays Hospital 0331411	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
07:00	Karachi (PT)
10:30	Jeddah (SU)

10:30	Sana (TY)
12:30	Cario (AS)
15:00	Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:00	Damascus (PT)
19:30	Beirut (ME)

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in the	
Apple (red)	700 / 2
Banana	500 / 1
Banana (Mukhammad)	450 / 3
Bany	620 / 3
Cabbage	130 / 1
Carrot	400 / 3
Cauliflower	330 / 2
Cauliflower (large)	140 / 1
Cucumbers (small)	250 / 1
Eggplant	230 / 1
Garlic	620 / 1
Leemon	210 / 1
Marrow (large)	150 / 1
Marrow (small)	340 / 3
Onion (dry)	170 / 1
Pepper (hot)	220 / 3
Pepper (sweet)	160 / 3
Potato	330 / 2
Tomato	80 /

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights	
(Terminal 1)	
06:20	Damascus (RJ)
06:30	Berlin, London (RJ)
10:45	Rome (RJ)
10:50	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:40	Istanbul (RJ)
12:05	Cairo (RJ)
19:30	Colombo (RJ)
20:00	Amman (RJ)
20:05	Damascus (RJ)
20:05	Riyadh (RJ)
20:05	Dhahran (RJ)
20:30	New Delhi (RJ)
21:00	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
21:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Sana (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:00	Damascus (PT)
08:15	Beirut (ME)
11:30	Sana (TY)
12:00	Jeddah (SU)
13:15	Cairo (ME)

Pgr	340 / 3
Guava	250 / 3
Black Grapes	620 / 3
Green Grapes	750 / 6
Dates	500 / 4
Okra	200 / 4
Pomegranate	180 / 3

Crown Prince meets Ghali while Princess tours school

NEW YORK (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is presently in the United States met in New York Monday with members of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks and conducted a comprehensive assessment of the previous six rounds of negotiations. The Crown Prince reviewed with the delegation items on the agenda and Jordan's views for the attainment of a just and durable peace.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for continued coordination with the other Arab parties to the peace talks with the purpose of reaching a comprehensive settlement on all fronts. The meeting comes on the eve of the resumption of the peace process in Washington due to begin Wednesday.

In a separate development, Crown Prince Hassan met in New York with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and reviewed the outcome of the peace process in its multilateral phase.

The two reviewed the general situation in areas of unrest around the world and the role of the U.N. peacekeeping forces. Dr. Ghali praised Jordan's position, voicing his appreciation of the Kingdom's contributions to various U.N. peacekeeping missions. Dr. Ghali later hosted a lunch in honour of Prince Hassan.

Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath toured Windsor School and Stephen Geymour School which offer special education to students with dyslexia.

The Princess was accompanied by Dr. Judith Hockman, a specialist in dyslexia, and inspected modern facilities for teaching the children. Princess Sarvath is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Young Women Muslim Association which runs training programmes for teachers dealing with children suffering from dyslexia.

Arafat honours journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat Sunday conferred on Jordanian journalist Sultan Al Hattab the Jerusalem Shield in a special ceremony held in his honour at Mr. Arafat's office in Tunisia.

The ceremony, which was attended by several Jordanian journalists and members of the PLO Executive Committee, was held following the conclusion of the Palestine Central Council meetings in the Tunisian capital.

The shield was presented to Mr. Hattab in appreciation of his services to the Palestinian question and his courage in defending its cause, in line with the shield's



PRINCESS BASMA OPENS UNIVERSITY NURSERY: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday visited the University of Jordan where she inaugurated a children's nursery for university employees. The nursery is part of an on-going project being implemented jointly by the university and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF). The Princess toured the premises, which will offer day services to 62 young children brought in daily by female employees. Later Princess Basma discussed with University President Fawzi Gharaibeh the level of cooperation between QAF and the University of Jordan, especially in carrying out social and voluntary projects in Jordan.

EC aids Kingdom's irrigation projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The European Community (EC) is currently implementing water projects in the Azraq oasis and in the Hamad and Sirhan Basins to assess available quantities of water, according to the latest EC newsletter published this month in Amman.

The letter said that the Azraq project will contribute to the protection of the bird reserve at the oasis which is currently threatened by the overpumping of water from the site.

The water resources of the Mujib Basin in southern Jordan are being studied for the viability of building dams in the Wala and Nukheila wadis.

A study on the rehabilitation and upgrading of the King Abdullah canal, the lifeline for Jordan Valley agriculture, has already been completed, as has a study on the feasibility of raising the level of the Kafrein dam in the valley, according to the newsletter.

At present, it said, the dam provides irrigation water for around 12,000 dunams of land producing fruit and vegetable crops under a flexible system that allows for sprinkler drip and basin irrigation, according to the type of crop required.

The newsletter also said that the European Investment Bank (EIB) is funding projects to rehabilitate the water distribution networks of Irbid and Ramtha in northern Jordan and a major scheme is underway to upgrade the waste water network and pumping facilities in the industrial centre of Zarqa for which the EIB has provided loans of \$7 million since 1986.

This project is aimed at improving sanitary conditions in the Zarqa area by replacing the unhygienic open cesspit method of sewage disposal by a large scale sewer pipe connection system which will also facilitate the introduction of selective wastewater reuse schemes.

Earlier this week Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kassar announced that the government plans to increase water supplies in the Kingdom at the rate of 116 million cubic metres annually through the construction of four water dams at the cost of JD 152 million. In a statement to Al Ra'i Arabic daily, the minister said that the four dams whose water is to be used for irrigation purposes will be filled with rain water.

The dams will be set up at Karameh, Waleh, Mujib and Tanour areas, according to Mr. Kassar who also said that the capacity of the Kafrein dam in the Jordan Valley will be boosted to five million cubic metres.

The minister said contacts are underway with a number of Arab and foreign financial institutions to secure funds for these projects.

Orthopaedic conference opens

By Maha Adasli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The country's approach towards health care must be aided by the individuals and the families' responsibilities so that health becomes accessible to all, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh said Tuesday in an address to the first pan-Arab Orthopaedic Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Dr. Bataineh pointed out that Jordan recently hosted several medical conferences, indicating the high levels of attention that is being given to medicine in Jordan. "We are definitely moving in the correct direction," he said. "We hope that we can open doors to new scopes and horizons through these medical conferences."

The president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), Ishaq Maraqa, said that the JMA along with other societies of various medical specialties give priority to seminars and conferences. "This conference on orthopaedics emphasises our point," Dr. Maraqa said.

"As an outcome of this conference it is hoped that a pan-Arab orthopaedic association will be established," said Dr. Nawras Shequm, the president of the conference.

Computer exhibition draws large crowds

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the information age descends upon Amman, the largest computer exhibition to be held in Jordan Tuesday was bustling with visitors flocking to see the latest in computer technology. Forty Jordanian firms exhibiting the most recent hardware and software in today's market are using the six-day event to educate the public as well as to demonstrate the technological capabilities of their various models.

Due to the rapidly growing computer-literate public in Jordan, it is predicted that some 25,000 visitors will attend the exhibition at the Expo Exhibition this week.

Looking forward to a large turnout throughout the event, Fuad Al Nimer, director of the Galaxy Trading and Tourism Corporation and the organiser of the exhibition, remarked, "We are looking for quality visitors, not quantity." He added, "It was decided to charge an admission fee of 500 fils to ensure those attending are serious and genuinely interested in the products exhibited."

According to Yousef Al Barghouti, director of General Computers and Electronics, the exhibition is attracting a wide spectrum of customers, ranging from public and private business people to engineers, industrialists and students. "We are offering a good discount on all equipment, here at the exhibition, even for a single order," Mr. Barghouti added.

Whether one is interested in buying or browsing, the computer expo is a convenient way to become more familiar with the most recent technology in Jordan.

The computer exhibition at the Expo Exhibition Centre is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will continue until Oct. 23.

Rifai acquitted of defaming deputies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Court of First Instance has acquitted former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai of defaming members of Parliament. Judge Eid Al Lawzi passed the verdict on the case Monday, legal sources said.

The sources said they expected the prosecution to appeal the ruling at the Court of Appeals. There was no immediate comment from Parliament or the prosecutor-general's office.

The case was filed in August by the Lower House of Parliament in response to a demand by 42 of its members who were infuriated by a statement issued by the former prime minister over an alleged corruption case debated in the House.

Mr. Rifai, who stepped down in April 1989, issued the statement after the House failed to charge him in August with corruption in a major highway project which was awarded when he was prime minister in 1987.

The House, which required a minimum of 54 votes to indict Mr. Rifai and two of his colleagues in his 1985-1989 cabinet, could secure only 48 votes and thus the motion failed.

In separate votes, the motion against Hanna Odeh, who was Mr. Rifai's finance minister, was also quashed, but Mamdouh Hawamdeh, who was minister of public works in the Rifai cabinet, was indicted.

According to the Constitution, the elected Lower House has to discuss all cases involving a serving or former minister and make its own decision. A special court will try former minister(s) or serving minister(s) indicted by the House.

Citing "public right," the House had said in its complaint that Mr. Rifai's statement, carried in the local press on Aug. 5, one day after the House voted in the affair, "defamed and insulted" members of Parliament.

The Rifai statement accused a "malicious group" of trying to defame him by levelling corruption charges against him and said the group "considers that the people of Jordan are ignorant and the rulers of the country knew no laws or constitution."

"This group tries to deprive the people of their accomplishments which in many cases were tantamount to miracles. This group also denies all that has been achieved at all levels and the many sacrifices offered by the people of Jordan..."

At the same time, the statement also paid tribute to "the prominent people of Jordan, the pioneers who built this country, were not taken in by the falsehoods."

In his ruling Monday, Judge Lawzi said that the argument used by the deputies seeking legal



Zaid Rifai

action against Mr. Rifai fell short of supporting the defamation charges against the former prime minister, according to the legal source.

"The court made reference to the notice of the 42 deputies and rejected the argument paying tribute to some people could be slander against others," said the legal source. "And therefore it acquitted Mr. Rifai and declared him innocent."

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Mr. Rifai told the Jordan Times: "I am very happy with the verdict of the court."

"I have always been proud of and believed in the judiciary of this country which has always been fair and just."

According to the legal source, the court reached its own decision and did not consult a team of independent legal experts.

House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Deputy Speaker Abdul Karim Dughni could not be reached for comment on the verdict.

Since it invoked "public right" in filing the case, the House cannot appeal the ruling, but the prosecutor or the prosecutor-general can.

The prosecutor has 15 days to approach the court of appeals and the prosecutor-general has 60 days.

"All indications are that the prosecution might file an appeal," said another legal source. Several deputies have said that they were determined to "see this thing through."

The case against Mr. Rifai is one of at least three slander and insult lawsuits stemming from the alleged corruption affair. The House has taken to court hometown supporters of Mr. Hawamdeh who protested the indictment of the former minister and the director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) who criticised the House action against the Hawamdeh supporters.

Two ministers must choose between Islamic front or cabinet

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front intends to give an ultimatum to two of its founding members who presently hold ministerial posts to either choose between the party or the government, a prominent member of the front said in a public statement Monday night.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Akkaleh told an audience of 300 gathered at the Islamic Cultural Centre for a debate on political parties that the front was waiting to become officially registered before it made this ultimatum to Minister of Municipalities Abdul Razzak Tobeishat and Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen.

He said that such drastic action was required because of differences over the Middle East peace talks.

The Islamic Action Front, the



Abdullah Akkaleh

Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists are united in their rejection of any solution which will relinquish any part of Palestine to Israel.

During Monday's debate, a member of the audience asked

Mr. Akkaleh how the front could claim to reject any deals over Palestine yet allow two of their members to continue to serve as ministers in a cabinet which condones peace talks with Israel which at best could result in partial retrieval of Israeli-occupied Palestinian land.

Mr. Akkaleh said that the front was not yet registered and that the ministers would be asked to make a choice when the party becomes official.

The debate was titled "Are Political Parties Necessary?" and was also attended by representatives of four other new political parties. Because the title of the debate left little for the imagination since the participants were in reality only required to defend their existence and not their different ideologies or political platform, the speeches only reflected a very small margin of the debate that is taking place in political circles throughout the country.

Although the speakers represented different political platforms and ideologies ranging from the Islamic Action Front party, the Arab Islamic Party, the Justice and Progressive Party, the National Coalition Party and Al Abd Party, little controversy came out in the debate among them.

The speakers, who had 10 minutes to present their arguments, agreed that political parties were necessary. Most of them cited the same arguments for their conclusion although they approached it with different styles.

Perhaps because of this, observers of the debate said, the audience failed to create a serious political debate over pluralism in Jordan and the questions which followed the initial speeches seemed to try to pinpoint the speakers personally or discredit them based on prior convictions rather than react to what they said at the debate.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet approves project with Chile and EC

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Tuesday and agreed to renew the cultural cooperation programme between Jordan and Chile for the years 1993-95. The programme aims to enhance relations between the two countries in educational, scientific, cultural, sports, health, social and information fields. The Cabinet also approved the Water Authority of Jordan receiving a JD 20 million loan from the Social Security Corporation or from commercial banks and it agreed the establishment of a unified European cultural centre in Amman with the aim of gathering the cultural centres of the European Community's (EC) member states in one building.

Arab philosophers hold conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Third Arab Philosophy Conference opened Tuesday at the University of Jordan with the participation of a number of Arab philosophers and intellectuals. The 12-day conference, which is organised by the Arab Philosophy Society, will discuss specialised philosophical issues. University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh said in an opening address at the conference that the most important issues in life nowadays are those of logic, democracy, human rights, the crisis of values, the role of sciences, freedom and modernisation. Dr. Gharaibeh called on the participants in the conference to draw up a new contemporary Arab philosophy which can cope with such developments.

Russian delegation arrives in Amman

IRBID (Petra) — A Russian parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which it will hold talks with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and senior Jordanian officials. The delegation was received at Al Ramtha border post by Lower House Deputy Speaker Abdul Karim Al Dughni and other officials.

U.N. Day to be celebrated at RCC

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will organise in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other U.N. agencies a celebration at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday to mark the U.N. Day. The celebration will include an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a statement by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali which will be read by ESCWA Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

JCC distributes wheat and barley seeds

AMMAN (Petra) — The Madaba Agricultural Machinery Station of the Jordan Cooperation Organisation (JCO) has started distributing improved wheat and barley seeds to farmers and cooperative societies in Madaba district. Director of the station Awwad Al Hishah said a tonne of improved wheat seeds would be sold to farmers at JD 140 and a tonne of barley seeds at JD 100. Mr. Hishah said the station had also started to receive application forms by farmers wishing to join a project on increasing seed production.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Poster exhibition of the Beatles at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreis at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Ibrahim Al Shalabi at Alla Art Gallery.

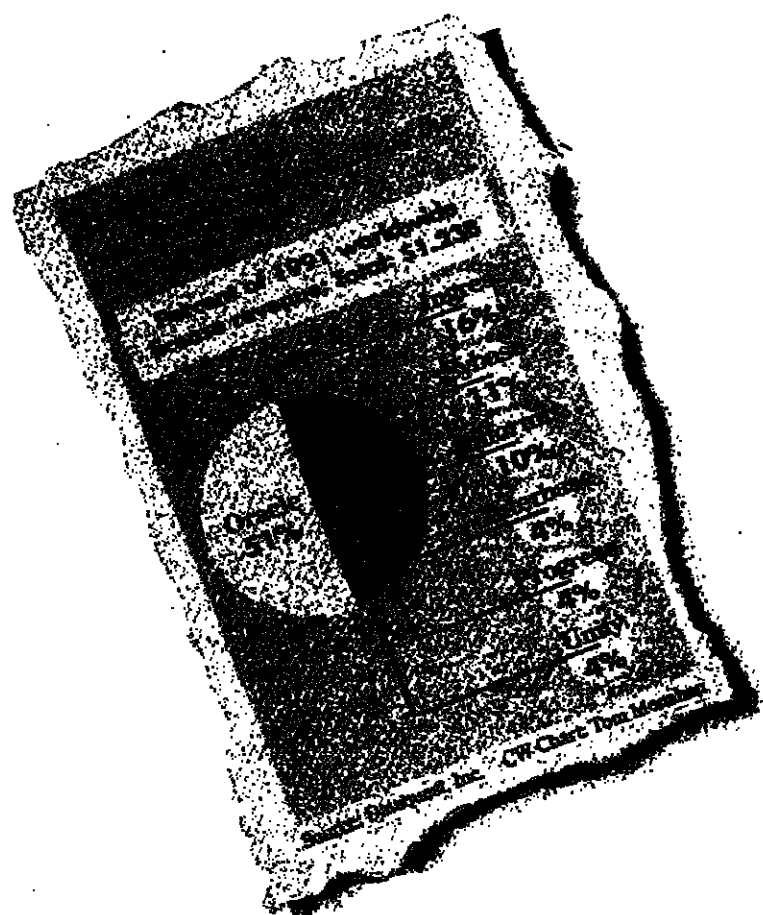
DEBATE

- ★ Videoshow of the debate between U.S. Presidential candidates George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot at the USIS auditorium, the American Embassy (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and rerun at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Charlots of Fire" at the British Council — 7 p.m.

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Sharif Zeid pledges support for JPA

(Continued from page 1)

har the government would increase its financial assistance to the JPA so as to help it honour its financial commitments, particularly in ensuring health insurance for its members and backing for its quest to obtain assistance from the local newspapers at the rate of one per cent of their income from advertising as was agreed earlier between the JPA and the newspaper companies.

Mr. Qudus said that the JPA was hoping that these funds would be forthcoming to help the journalists finance their own housing projects.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzeddin, who was present at the meeting, supported the views of the JPA and the prime minister in demanding that the one per cent be paid to the JPA.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif and the prime minister's information advisor, Ali Safadi, were present at the meeting.

In a separate move, the JPA board Tuesday issued a statement to Jordanian journalists urging them to seek the truth in their reports, particularly about the ongoing Shabab 'Al Nafar Al Islami trial.

The JPA appealed to journalists and writers to remain committed to the profession's ethics

and remain neutral and responsible in covering various events and to refrain from levelling accusations against other people and pre-judging those being tried at court.

It said that no journalist should resort to any terms or phrases designed to change the picture or infringe on the credibility of the press.

The statement urged all journalists to publish facts without influencing the reports with their own judgements.

"For the sake of protecting Jordan's security and stability, all journalists should avoid adding to their reports their own personal views employing harsh terms whenever reporting on court sessions and refrain from giving their own comments about any development because such behaviour could tantamount to spreading rumours and inciting sedition," the statement added.

"While supporting press freedom and free expression, the JPA expresses its deep commitment to honouring and respecting the Jordanian laws and urges the journalists to be responsible reporters of news and events who uphold the ethics of their profession," said the statement.

It said that the press shall remain committed to defending citizens rights and protecting national interests.

Palestinians fear talks could be stalled

(Continued from page 1)

office in July.

"The Israeli government has proposed a national council. We are not talking about a state but from the very moment we agree on this administration, the Israeli government will agree to sit with them on other subjects," Mr. Aloni told reporters.

Mr. Rabin said in an interview published Tuesday that chances for peace with Syria were now better than with the Palestinians. "It does appear today — and that is the reason for Palestinian frustrations with Syria — that there are better chances to conclude (a peace agreement with Damascus)," he told the French daily newspaper Le Monde.

"Negotiations with Damascus appear more promising for two reasons first, because there is someone in Damascus (President Hafez Al Assad) who can take decisions."

"Secondly, because the Syrians, contrary to the Palestinians, accept the framework of negotiations agreed in Madrid," he said.

Mr. Rabin said he was very disappointed with the attitude of Palestinian negotiators "who have not yet accepted the idea that we must go, step by step, towards an interim accord."

"For the past 50 or so years, the Palestinians' great tragedy is that they have always wanted to obtain the maximum but never obtained anything," said Mr. Rabin.

Palestinian spokeswoman Janan Ashrawi said in a separate radio interview that Mr. Rabin's statements about lack of progress with Palestinians "prejudged the issues."

Asked by Radio France International if she feared there might be a separate Syrian-Israeli accord, Dr. Ashrawi said there was an "Arab commitment not to go separate agreements (and) we have a full understanding with the Syrians."

"We are pleased with any progress on any front which will trigger and encourage progress on other tracks," she said.

"I wouldn't raise unrealistic expectations or hopes, given the fact that so much time has passed," Dr. Ashrawi said before

leaving Amman on a flight to Paris late Monday.

She and other delegates will meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas during a brief stop-over on the trip.

"There is a tremendous frustration with the peace process that it has been long and drawn out without any results," Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters.

"We had hoped by the end of this month we would end negotiations on the interim phase and start implementation but unfortunately we still haven't reached agreement on basic issues."

Mr. Rabin told Le Monde there could be no peace with Syria until he met Mr. Assad.

"I am not asking for a summit now. But I cannot imagine peace being established between Syria and Israel if the leaders of the two countries refuse to meet."

"We cannot sign a peace treaty with Damascus if the Syrian leader does not give his people proof that he is ready for reconciliation with Israel," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin indicated, as he has done before, Israeli willingness to withdraw from at least part of the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

But he said he would not go into details about the scope of withdrawal until he was certain that Syria's concept of peace included open borders, freedom of movement and the exchange of ambassadors.

Asked about his Labour Party's pre-election intentions to scrap a law banning contacts with members of the PLO, Mr. Rabin said the reform did not mean Israeli authorities would negotiate with the Tunis-based body.

The reform was aimed instead at individuals seeking PLO contacts, he said, adding that the reform's timing depended on unspecified "new realities."

"Changing the law could incite some in the United States to resume official contacts with the PLO and I do not want to facilitate that," he said.

Israel meanwhile turned down an offer by Mr. Arafat to meet Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, said in reaction to Mr. Arafat's offer: The prime minister's office has no intention whatsoever to comment on that."

Kuwaiti assembly holds first meeting

(Continued from page 1)

MR. Saadoun won 46 votes against 13 which went to his only opponent, Abdul Aziz Al Adasni, an independent. Sheikh al-Abdast.

Under Kuwaiti law, cabinet members have the right to vote in parliament even if they are non-parties.

Elections held early this month brought an unprecedented majority of 35 opposition deputies to the house.

The six opposition deputies serving in the cabinet also constitute the largest number of parliament members ever to be included in the government.

The obvious maximum was three. Kuwaitis hope the move would prove the relationship between the two authorities.

The opposition welcomed the appointments but complained it the key portfolios, such as finance, interior and foreign affairs, remained in the hands of the Al Sabah family which has ruled Kuwait for 250 years.

Assem Al Sager, the eldest deputy, headed Tuesday's inaugural session, until Mr. Saadoun's sworn in.

"Today ... Kuwait proves to world how deep-rooted its

democracy is ... and its worthiness of the international support it receives for liberation," said Mr. Sager.

He said security, economic, political and social challenges Kuwait faces were complicated by the fact that the world was moving to a new world order which has not been completely shaped.

"This puts the world situation in general and the situation in our Arab and Gulf worlds on the doorstep of major changes," said Mr. Sager. "We have to be steady enough so that those changes don't wash us away, and flexible enough so that they don't pass us by."

The parliament was expected to start Tuesday reviewing more than 500 laws passed by the government during its absence, including a \$24-billion plan to buy out bad debts held by the emirate's banks.

Opposition deputies have demanded an investigation of the government's failure to predict the Iraqi invasion of August 1990 and a probe into the collapse of the armed forces and mismanagement of the country's vast foreign investments.

Bosnian peoples far apart on shape of new state

By Robert Evans
Reuters

GENEVA — After seven months of fighting, Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslims, Serbs and Croats appear as far apart as ever on the shape of a state where they could live together again.

The three main communities in the former Yugoslav republic have made clear to international mediators working in Geneva that they have widely differing views on how they could share power from foreign affairs down to customs duties.

In presentations to the mediators of their views, the Muslim-led Bosnian government argues for a single if decentralised state, the rebel Serbs insist on a confederation and the Croats argue for a federation.

The presentations, in copies obtained by Reuters this weekend, show the government insisting that the high degree of intermingling before the conflict erupted in April meant a split along ethnic lines would be economic nonsense.

The Serbs have told mediator Martti Ahtisaari, according to the documents, that they want three clearly identified ethnic states each with their own central bank, police force and army or national guard.

Between these two positions, Croat leader Mate Boban says the country should be "a democratic and federal state of constituent and sovereign nations" where the three national groups are organised in their own "units."

The presentations were made in response to a questionnaire from Mr. Ahtisaari, an experienced Finnish diplomat and United Nations negotiator who heads a working-group on Bosnia set up by the Geneva Conference on the old Yugoslavia.

The conference co-chairman, former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and ex-British Foreign Secretary Lord Owen, say that despite the continued ferocity of the conflict, progress is being made in discussions on a future constitution.

But the presentations suggest there has been little change of position since European Community-brokered talks in February and March this year failed to prevent war between the Serbs

and the loosely allied Muslims and Croats.

Then the idea of "cantons" along the Swiss model was pursued by the Serbs — just under 30 per cent of the population — also demanded near total autonomy in their own region covering two thirds of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a referendum on March 3, boycotted by most Serbs, the Muslims and Croats voted almost unanimously for independence from the rump Yugoslavia — already reduced to only Serbia and Montenegro — and it was immediately proclaimed.

An EC plan for constitutional settlement, which in outline resembled that now offered by the Croats who represent 18 per cent of the country's people, was rejected by Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as too centralised.

Despite apparent initial agree-

ment, Bosnia's parliamentary President Alija Izetbegovic rejected division into ethnic cantons on grounds almost identical to those which he and his colleagues still defend.

He feared the Muslims, concentrated by history in small pockets of territory and many major towns but spread thinly across the countryside, would be left with an unviable mini-state under constant threat from its larger neighbours.

Although he retains the backing of some urban Serbs who reject the fierce nationalism of Mr. Karadzic, he is accused by the Bosnian Serb leaders of aiming to create an Islamic state where Muslims would dominate the rest.

But in his government's presentation to Mr. Ahtisaari, he argues for a "democratic, secular and decentralised state" based on

equal rights "for Croats, Muslims, Serbs and all other citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Decentralisation, the presentation argues, should be based on geographic and economic criteria as well as national and cultural grounds, and be around "natural centres" in the larger towns and cities.

These "constituent units-regions," the document declared, "do not have the character of a state." The Serbs, who have proclaimed their own republic and through "ethnic cleansing" have removed many Muslims and Croats, insist that they should.

"Naturally," their document says, the constituent units "are sovereign states with all the consequences known in internal and international law" joining a future confederation of Bosnia-Herzegovina "of their own free will."

Berri elected parliament speaker

(Continued from page 1)

Scattered volleys of machine-gun fire rang out from residential districts as Mr. Berri's co-religionists celebrated his election.

Mr. Berri, a lawyer by profession, heads the Shiite Amal movement which fought against the rightists in the 1975-80 civil war and is committed to an alliance of guerrilla factions fighting against Israel in South Lebanon.

Mr. Berri was elected as a parliament deputy for the first time in the recent general elections. The poll was the first in 20 years and was boycotted by hard line Christians.

The parliamentary elections, held in four stages between Aug.

23 and Oct. 11, produced an overwhelming pro-Syrian parliament. The right-wing Christians, mainly Maronite Catholics, argued that holding the elections while Syrian troops control two-thirds of the country would turn Lebanon into a Syrian satellite. Syria has 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

The Christian boycott helped bring Muslim fundamentalists and their allies to the half-Christian, half-Muslim parliament for the first time ever. They won 16 seats.

One Sunni fundamentalist, Fathi Yakan of north Lebanon, walked into parliament Tuesday wearing a black robe and carrying a prayer rug.

Likudinks

(Continued from page 1)

security problems. On Monday night, several dozen settlers demonstrated outside Mr. Rabin's home for the second time.

GCC ready

(Continued from page 1)

nations have been easing their boycott on American or other companies that still deal with Israel in their bid to produce "confidence-building measures."

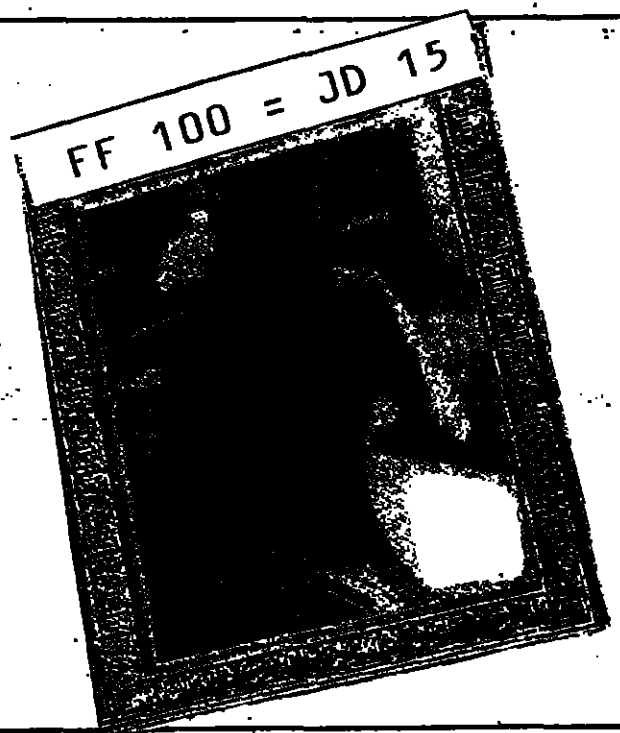
Kuwait announced in December that it was no longer blacklisting firms that deal with Israel because of the urgent needs of its reconstruction after the devastation caused by seven months of Iraqi occupation and the Gulf war.

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Michael Jordan tours Miami to raise money for hurricane victims

MIAMI (AP) — Basketball's greatest scorer concentrated on rebounding Monday.

Michael Jordan and his Chicago Bulls teammates visited Miami seeking to raise money and spirits in the aftermath of hurricane Andrew. The trip was Jordan's idea.

The Bulls and Miami Heat conducted a 30-minute midday clinic at Miami Arena for 12,000 schoolchildren from hurricane-ravaged South Dade County. The teams played a daily exhibition game several hours later.

Students ages 8 to 15, delighted to be hanging out with Jordan rather than sitting in a classroom, cheered his every move during the clinic.

"He can teach me how to dunk," said 14-year-old Dexter Roberts, who might stand 1.38 metres (4-foot-6) in Air Jordans.

"He's shorter than I thought he'd be," said 10-year-old Kelvin Edwards, referring to Michael Jordan, not Dexter Roberts.

In warmups, every layup Jordan made brought a frenzied shriek from the crowd. He participated in shooting contests between the two teams, and when the Heat outscored the Bulls 20-18 in free throws, some youngsters booed.

Jordan spoke briefly over the public address system.

"Being millionaires," he said, "isn't a sense of obligation to come and help people who mean so much to us. We consider Miami part of our family — the NBA family. Hopefully the money raised will give you a little more determination to rebuild."

Chicago Bulls overcome Miami Heat 111-94

The exhibition game raised over \$500,000 to aid the victims of hurricane Andrew and lifted the spirits of hundreds of homeless children and even two professional basketball teams.

Approximately 740 youngsters whose homes were lost or extensively damaged as the result of Hurricane Andrew occupied all the courtside seats as the Chicago Bulls beat the Miami Heat, 111-94 Monday night.

"For one day in October, they had the times of their lives," said Jordan, who first suggested the game to Heat partner Billy Cunningham when the two of them were playing golf together in North Carolina shortly after the storm.

"It was exciting for us to see all the kids have a good time," said Miami's Glen Rice, who scored 21 points. "It felt absolutely fantastic to see so many kids smiling once again because the hurricane devastated the majority of them," said the Bulls' Horace Grant, who scored 15.

For some, the feeling was very personal.

The home of Heat trainer Ron Culp was not liveable after the hurricane and he spent two weeks in the home of the team's coach, Kevin Loughery.

"He just said, 'take my home,'" Culp said. "A lot of people have no one helping them. Every day is a struggle for them. Tonight is a way of reminding people not to get caught up in their lives and forget about the others."



Michael Jordan

All ticket revenue was contributed by the Heat to We Will Rebuild, a civic organization spearheading the relief effort. That total, which Heat executive vice president Pauline Winnick indicated would reach at least \$400,000 was boosted by the fact that the Bulls waived the fee they

would have ordinarily received for the game.

The game was televised nationally by TNT, which announced an 800 number for viewers to make contributions to the relief programme. Heat officials indicated that more than \$100,000 was raised that way.

Rangers and Leeds battle for pride and semifinal place

LONDON (R) — Leeds and Glasgow Rangers clash in the most intriguing and passionate of Wednesday's European Cup ties with much more at stake than a lucrative semifinal berth.

The English and Scottish champions will be playing for the pride of their nations in a second-round tie viewed as the unofficial British Championship and labelled the "Battle of Britain."

But when the two sides lock horns in the first leg at Ibrox of an encounter full of ironies, their chances and aspirations will rest heavily on players from enemy territory.

Leeds, who beat VfB Stuttgart in a controversial third match ordered after the Germans fielded too many foreign players in their second leg, rely on experienced Scots Gordon Strachan and captain Gary McAllister to provide the inspiration and drive.

Rangers, who have not progressed past the second round of the European Cup on their last three attempts, field two influential Englishmen in Trevor Steven and Mark Hateley.

French champions Marseille travel to Romania for a European Cup second round soccer tie Wednesday in an atmosphere of fear and fury.

The glittering prize, after the two legs are played, is a place among the elite in the two-group league format semifinals of Europe's top club competition.

Marseille crashed out at this point last season and coach Jean Fernandez knows his job could be on the line if the expensive team fail to win through again.

He can expect no favours from the club's millionaire businessman owner Bernard Tapie, who has set heart and wallet on bringing the cup to France for the first time.

After Marseille suffered their

second successive league defeat Saturday — the first time that had happened in more than four years — Tapie's fury was evident.

The players were locked in the dressing room for 90 minutes after the match and Fernandez told reporters later: "At Marseille, you have to win. Two defeats in a row is a lot. The next few days are sure to be very important."

Dinamo Bucharest, Marseille's opponents, are not the toughest club to beat but the French still have nightmares about their defeat last season to Sparta Prague.

Marseille have been noticeably weakened by the summer departures of Jean-Pierre Papin, Chris Waddle and Carlos Moller and their cause has not been helped by the loss of form of full-back Manuel Amoros, who has lost his place.

Dinamo last week parted with coach Florin Halagian after a string of poor results and former player Alexandru Moldovan took over as interim coach, knowing that a win against Marseille would be the best way of keeping the job.

Champions Barcelona, who struggled to beat unfancied Norwegian Viking Stavanger 1-0 on aggregate in the first round, also need to forget a recent league defeat in Spain when they travel to CSKA Moscow.

The Catalans expect to be at full strength and know that anything approaching their best should be more than good enough against the young Russian army team.

Former champions Milan are likely to prove unstoppable against Czechoslovakia's Slovan Bratislava after equalling the Italian League record of 40 consecutive matches without defeat Sunday by beating Lazio 5-3 at home.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Atlanta wants golf in 1996 Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — Atlanta Olympic organisers want to add golf to the 1996 Summer Games as a medal sport with Augusta National Golf Course as the site of the competition, a newspaper reported Monday. The addition of any sport to the Olympic programme, however, will require approval of the International Olympic Committee. Golf has not been an Olympic medal sport since the 1904 Games in St. Louis.

Italian biker de Petri hurt in Egypt Rally crash

CAIRO (R) — Italian rider Alessandro de Petri was seriously hurt in a crash in the desert during Egypt's Pharaoh Rally, hospital officials in the upper Egyptian town of Assiut said Tuesday. De Petri, 37, who won the 5,000 km race two years ago, was flown to a hospital in Assiut, where his spleen was removed Monday night. Doctors said he had also suffered concussion and damage to his kidney.

Krabbe's club put off decision on her expulsion

NEUBRANDENBURG, Germany (R) — Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe's German club put off a decision on expelling her until she had appealed against her four-year doping ban. The Neubrandenburg Athletics Club said after a meeting it had decided to stop the expulsion proceedings against Krabbe, world 400 silver medalist Grit Breuer and teammate Manuela Derr that it began last month. The German Athletics Federation (DLV) recommended to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in September that the trio be banned. Krabbe and Breuer tested positive for the banned drug clenbuterol during random tests in training in July. Derr has also admitted to taking the drug.

Rodrigo de Triano for Breeders Cup classic

LONDON (AP) — A trio of Europe's best three-year-olds could turn the \$3 million Breeders Cup classic in Florida Oct. 31 into an unofficial "world championship."

Rodrigo de Triano, French-trained Azazi, and Irish Derby winner St. Jovite are all likely to run the 10-furlong (2,000 metre) race on Gulfstream Park's dirt track.

St. Jovite, rated Europe's leading middle-distance 3-year-old, was Monday confirmed for the classic by trainer Jim Bolger.

"We reckoned that St. Jovite has nothing more to prove on grass over a mile and a half, and since he's likely to stand at stud in the United States — we should take this opportunity to prove his versatility," Bolger said.

Spassky says Fischer is king of chess

BELGRADE (AP) — Former world chess champion Boris Spassky suggested Monday that he might have a subconscious desire to lose to Bobby Fischer to help Fischer's comeback, saying he considered him the king of chess.

Attention at the weekly news conference obviously focused on Fischer, who reaffirmed he would never again play in a tournament and lashed out against Russian leaders for what he described as their failure to abandon Soviet policies.

Fischer and Spassky played to a short but spirited draw in the 22nd game of their series at Bel-

grade's Sava Centre. Fischer wore down Boris Spassky in a grueling duel Saturday to win the 21st game and take an 8-4 lead. Spassky had won the previous game Thursday after a nine-hour draw the day before.

"On the one hand, I'm a fighter; on the other hand, I'm on Bobby's side," Spassky said Monday.

"We must have our king in chess and Bobby can be the king. (Former world chess champion Anatoly) Karpov and (reigning champion Garry) Kasparov can't be kings because they're communists."

Seoul to offer to co-host 2002 World Cup soccer

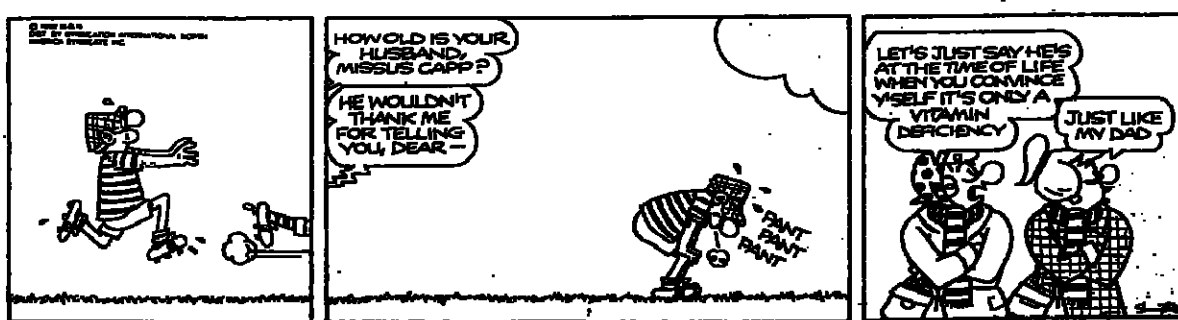
SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will formally offer to co-host the 2002 World Cup soccer championship with rival North Korea, a government report said Tuesday.

The United States is the host of the 1994 World Cup. Under a principle of rotation, the 1998 World Cup is set to be staged in Europe. FIFA, the world's soccer governing body, has decided to move the event to Asia in 2002. FIFA officials have said a united Korea would have a better chance of winning the right to host the event in 2002.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



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FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be thinking out a course of action that has to do with literary or contractual obligations that are of importance to you. You may be able to take some time off to be with a special friend.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is certainly your day to find out just where you stand with your partners and associates and to put your relationship on a better basis.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Look to what any fellow associates expect of you and go along with their wishes and views and you will find that you get along just great with them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A great day and evening for you to make new arrangements where your desire for happier outlets are concerned so put them in effect at once.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The outside world is your oyster today if you make a point to put some new life and vitality into whatever your vocational duties are.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) New ideas or interests with which you are inspired can be made a part of your active daily routines if you don't loiter but put into motion at once.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your money dealings with others can be the centre of your

activities now so you will have a greater abundance and to spare for yourself.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Joining forces with those who inspire you and are very active can be the right means by which you make a more satisfactory existence for yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a new inspiration on your tasks now and it will be possible for you now to do so in such a manner that you greatly please a close companion.

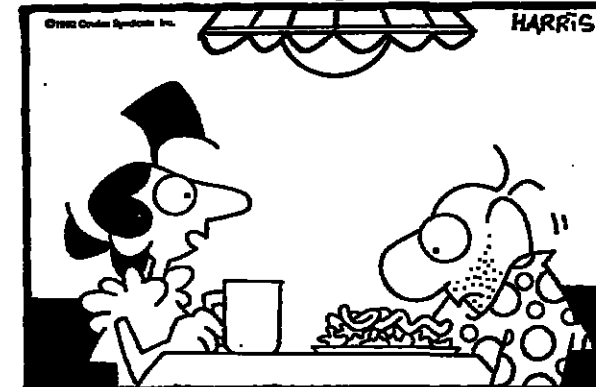
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Understanding friends and close affectionate companions can be made to see and enjoy themselves with you at pleasure you all like now.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever better arrangements can be made at your home will also benefit your basic interests at your home and with your family now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider well your new ambitions and how you can get your usual associates to go along with them so there will be benefits for everyone concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A whole new approach to your financial affairs and making your environment both more attractive and valuable are the operating influences today.

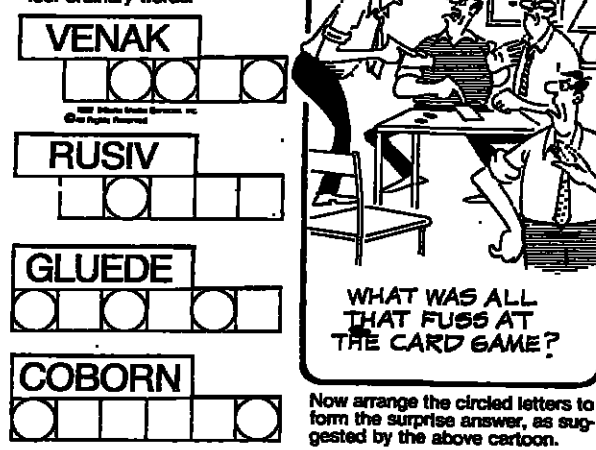
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Your morning breath is really bad today, so I put toothpaste on your eggs instead of ketchup."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

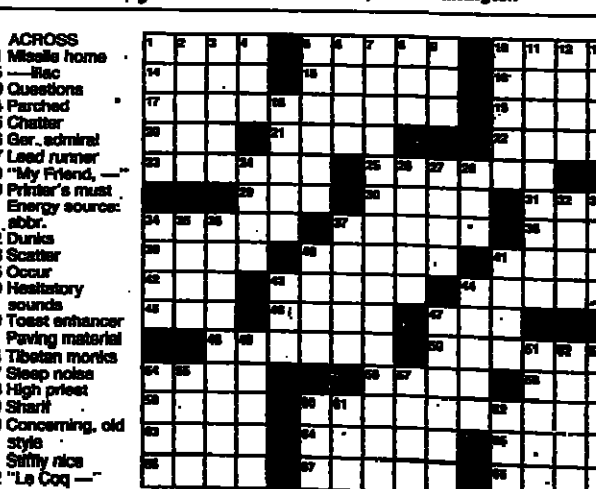


Print answer here: _____

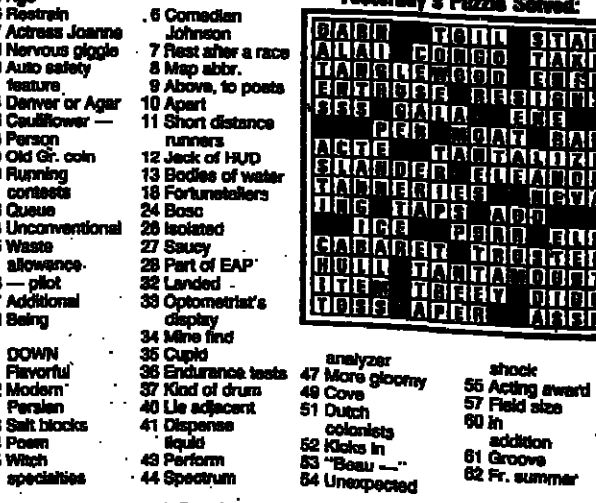
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURY LATCH CLUMSY REALITY. Answer: 'What they called that team of rough, tough, football players — THE "ALL-SCARS"'

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington



Yesterday's Puzzle Subject:



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
10/19/92	10/20/92	10/20/92
Sterling Pound	1.6250	1.6265
Deutsche Mark	1.5012	1.5045
Swiss Franc	1.3430	1.3458
French Franc	5.0900	5.1045
Japanese Yen	120.50	121.00
European Currency Unit	1.2990	1.3011

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.18	3.46	3.50	3.62
Sterling Pound	8.06	7.87	7.57	7.12
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.68	8.31	7.81
Swiss Franc	5.87	6.06	6.00	5.87
French Franc	9.93	9.81	9.50	9.12
Japanese Yen	5.93	5.81	5.62	5.65
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	10.06	9.62

Gold

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	342.65	6.70	Silver	5.74	.082

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.681	0.683
Sterling Pound	1.1072	1.1127
Deutsche Mark	0.4523	0.4546
Swiss Franc	0.5055	0.5080
French Franc	0.1334	0.1341
Japanese Yen	0.5625	0.5653
Dutch Guilder	0.4018	0.4038
Swedish Krona	0.1200	0.1206
Italian Lira	0.0517	0.0520
Belgian Franc	0.02202	0.02213

Index

Index	18/10/92	Close	19/10/92	Close
All-Share	152.51		152.95	
Banking Sector	116.00		116.60	
Insurance Sector	166.03		166.58	
Industry Sector	198.74		198.98	
Services Sector	220.47		220.44	

December 31, 1990 = 100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

October 21, 1992 = 100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

October 21, 1992 = 100

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

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'Clintonomics' neither liberal nor conservative

Wall Street economists project Clinton victory

NEW YORK (R) — An overwhelming number of Wall Street economists surveyed by Reuters expect Bill Clinton to win the U.S. presidential election, but most expect growth to remain sluggish at least until mid-1993.

Of 30 senior economists questioned last week, 28 said they expect a Democratic victory, while one projected President George Bush would be reelected and one said he was unsure.

But while most economists expect a Clinton win on Nov. 3 to provide a badly needed boost to consumer confidence, the honeymoon is likely to be short.

Only five analysts said they expect gross domestic product (GDP) to hit a three per cent annual growth rate by mid-1993 — a level they say is needed to promote significant jobs growth.

Seven of the economists held that GDP will remain below three per cent until 1994 or longer, while several said the economy's prospects depend on what the government does to boost growth.

A few said the economy would probably recover by itself under the influence of low interest rates.

The economists who expect sluggish growth throughout 1993 tended to agree that the high level of public and private debt is the major impediment to full recovery. One economist projected full recovery would not take place until 1995.

As for the government, debt

remains a dirty word for most economists. Any stimulus leading to "accelerations of spending should be temporary so the budget deficit is not lifted to a new plateau," said one.

"I think everything should be on the table" in terms of possible budget cuts, said Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Government Securities Inc.

Mr. Clinton has gathered an eclectic group of economic advisers who believe they've found a third way to promote growth that's neither liberal nor conservative.

"Rebuilding prosperity will require a programme that goes beyond left and right to make fundamental changes," said Robert Shapiro, vice president at the Progressive Policy Institute think-tank and a member of Mr. Clinton's inner circle.

Mr. Clinton, who has a big lead over President Bush in the opinion polls with two weeks to go until the election, has called for big increases in public investment and more spending on training to help realise the economy.

He plans to pay for that with higher taxes on the wealthy and on foreign corporations — spawning Republican charges that his programme is a return to past Democratic Party policies of

tax and spend and government meddling in the economy.

"It's an incredible paradox that at the moment the whole world is rejecting government planning... Clinton believes... that we ought to be moving in the direction of having the federal government engage in economic planning, determining winners and losers," said Republican Senator Phil Gramm of Texas.

Mr. Clinton advisers reject those charges and say their approach is neither a return to the Democratic Party policies of the past nor a continuation of Mr. Bush's failed programme.

The advisers, who include a couple of Wall Street executives, several longtime friends of Mr. Clinton and a former aide of New York Governor Mario Cuomo, contend a new strategy is needed if America is to prosper in the 21st century.

"We like to call it an investment-led recovery plan that's good for the economy in the short and long term," said Gene Sperling, a former aide to Mr. Cuomo who acts as Mr. Clinton's official spokesman on economic policy issues.

Much of Mr. Clinton's programme is based on the ideas of Robert Reich, a Harvard University professor who has known the Democrat since they studied

together at Oxford University in England in the 1960s.

Mr. Reich argues in his book "The Work of Nations" that jobs and capital can be exported in a global economy, but that people cannot.

"In a global economy, many nations will share access to basic resources such as capital and technology," Mr. Shapiro wrote in a recent issue of the magazine "The New Democrat."

And so, the government's role in promoting a nation's competitiveness should focus on investing in resources that the country has to itself — principally its workforce, infrastructure and research and development — not on subsidising particular industries or activities.

Mr. Clinton's economic programme reflects that philosophy. He has backed the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada, despite fears in traditional liberal circles that it will lead to a loss of American jobs.

But the Arkansas governor has said the treaty must be accompanied by measures to protect the environment and retrain those workers who lose their jobs.

Mr. Clinton has also called for creation of a "rebuild America fund" that will pump \$20 billion in federal money annually over

the next four years into everything from roads and bridges to high-speed trains and new technologies.

"The key... is getting the investment share of the economy to rise," said Roger Altman, an economic adviser to Mr. Clinton and vice chairman of the Blackstone Group, a New York-based investment banking company.

Mr. Altman has been mentioned as a potential candidate for treasury secretary if Mr. Clinton wins the election and is one of two Wall Street executives in the Democrat's inner circle of economic advisers. The other is Robert Rubin, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs and Co. and a Democratic Party fundraiser.

The inner circle also includes several longtime friends and associates of the Arkansas governor besides Mr. Reich.

Both Ira Magaziner, president of SIS, Inc., a Rhode Island-based management consulting company, and Derek Shearer, professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles, know Mr. Clinton from his days as a student at Oxford.

"The first priority is to get the economy going again," Mr. Shearer said. "If you get that right, then you have the resources and public confidence to push ahead on other fronts."

N. Korea announces foreign investment laws

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea announced new foreign investment laws Tuesday in its latest move towards ending the hard-line communist regime's economic isolation.

North Korea's largely symbolic Supreme People's Assembly adopted the laws to expand the country's limited economic and technical exchanges, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report monitored in Tokyo.

North Korea officials told reporters visiting Pyongyang last spring that they were in the process of drafting a legal framework to enable foreign companies to operate in their nation's centralised economy.

Initiatives taken by the reclusive government in the past, including a joint venture law enacted in 1984, so far have produced minimal results, partly because of the lack of legal protection for investors.

A few North Koreans living in Japan have set up joint-venture garment factories and there are a few other foreign businessmen doing business in Pyongyang, but so far there is no sign of large-scale foreign investment in the country.

The new laws closely resemble

those passed in China to encourage capitalist investment while protecting the socialist system.

They allow foreigners to set up equity and contractual joint ventures in North Korea and to set up and run wholly foreign-owned companies in free economic and trade zones planned along the lines of China's booming trade zones, the KCNA report said.

It said a separate law on contractual joint ventures was intended for companies that produce goods for export, for tourism and service industries, and for promoting the introduction of advanced technology.

That law provides special tax incentives for joint ventures that import new technology and specifies that joint ventures will be allowed to remit profits overseas.

The law on foreign enterprises allows outsiders to set up firms in electronics, automation, machine-building, food processing, clothing, transport, service and other industries, the news agency said.

The new laws allow foreign investors to bring in needed technical and managerial staff, but require most management and employees to be North Koreans.

Like China, North Korea has said it wants to open its economy

while retaining its communist political system. The government has been under the iron-fisted grip of Kim Il Sung since Korea was divided into the communist North and pro-Western South in 1945.

Decisions by the former Soviet Union and by China to cut back on economic support and seek closer ties with South Korea have severely strained the North's economy, forcing Pyongyang to seek help elsewhere.

Reform-minded North Korean leaders have been particularly eager to attract investment from Japan, which in turn has long coveted the North's abundant mineral resources and may want to tap its cheap labour.

But foreign companies have shunned the hard-line Stalinist nation, which is years behind in paying debts for past deals.

Japanese businessmen who have travelled to the country say they see little reason to invest in a country where movement of goods and people is rigidly controlled and many citizens claim to have received their clothing and food aid gifts from Mr. Kim and his son and heir-apparent, Kim Jong Il.

The new laws guarantee the legal rights of foreign investors and foreign-funded enterprises, which "shall not be nationalised or seized by the state," KCNA reported.

In case an inevitable situation makes it necessary to nationalise or seize those enterprises and assets, fair compensation shall be made for them," it said.

Kiyohiko Tanaka, managing director of the Japan-Korea Trade Association, said the new laws were a "first step," but most investors remain wary.

"We just don't have enough data about the real economic situation in the country, and neither do the North Koreans. Both sides have to study more to see if there are any merits to investing there," Mr. Tanaka said.

Political issues remain a key problem in opening the country to foreign investment. Few investors are willing to go ahead before Japan and the United States normalise relations with Pyongyang, he added.

Negotiations on establishing diplomatic ties remain stalled by disagreements over the extent of inspections North Korea will accept to dispel suspicions that it is developing nuclear weapons.

Troubled Nigerian bank declared insolvent

High interest rates hit producers in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Industrialists in Nigeria have said that high interest rates were crippling productive activity and undermining business confidence in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

"The high interest rates are discouraging investment," Uzor Okeke, acting director general of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, told Reuters.

"What we are doing is systematically destroying the productive sector of the economy," he added.

Interest rates have been driven up because of a shortage of funds in the banking industry after the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last month mopped up liquidity by issuing compulsory stabilisation securities.

On Sept. 22 and 25 the CBN issued stabilisation securities worth 7.4 billion naira (\$277.6 million) to mop up excess liquidity which producers and bankers blame on overspending by the military government.

The mop-up was the latest in a series of CBN cash withdrawals aimed at checking inflation, which is running at above 50 per cent, and stabilising the Naira's foreign exchange rates after a 41 per cent devaluation in March.

Bankers say the use of stabilisation securities, issued to banks without prior notice, creates unnecessary panic within the bank-

ing system as banks are sent searching for scarce funds.

Interbank rates — the rate at which banks lend to each other — have since risen above 70 per cent from less than 35 per cent earlier in the month. Bank lending rates to businesses have reached 50 per cent, from above 40 per cent two weeks ago.

Bankers say commercial and merchant banks are increasingly restricting themselves to short-term borrowing and lending as long term funds are difficult to find in an economy facing political and economic uncertainties.

Mr. Okeke said the prevailing interest rate regime was discouraging production as only currency speculators and traders could afford to borrow.

Small and medium scale producers in Nigeria are particularly dependent on funds from the banking system because most are undercapitalised and reluctant to use the capital market to raise funds, partly because of unwillingness to dilute family ownership structures.

The high cost of funds and foreign exchange was hampering industry's efforts to boost low capacity utilisation, now averaging around 30 per cent, Mr. Okeke said.

Cash-strapped producers are increasingly disillusioned and some are disinvesting, despite the government's six-year-old free

market economic reforms aimed at stimulating production in Africa's most populous nation.

"There is a complete loss of confidence. Producers are not sure of their future," Mr. Okeke said.

He said the problems facing the economy were partly due to poor implementation of the International Monetary Fund-backed reforms and the government's persistent fiscal indiscipline.

"The fiscal operation of the government is the source of excess liquidity," he said.

The government recorded a 14.8 billion naira (\$753 million) budget deficit in the first half of 1992 after promising to reverse a trend of overspending.

Last year, the budget deficit rose 62.8 per cent from 1990 to a record 35.31 billion naira (\$1.8 billion). This compared with a planned 100 million naira surplus for the calendar year.

Meanwhile, the National Bank of Nigeria (NBN), the country's oldest indigenous bank, has been declared insolvent and needs an injection of about two billion naira (\$102 million) to keep it alive, an official insurance body said Monday.

"It is completely insolvent. We have given the owners a task force report. It is now up to them to see if they can put up the required capital in time to save

the bank," a spokesman for the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) said.

Banking sources said it was unlikely the cash would be found and that NBN, in operation since the mid-1950s and owned by the southern states of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun and Osm, would probably close after two years in crisis.

The CBN took direct control of NBN in January because of the bank's deteriorating financial condition. NBN was unable to meet depositors' demands.

The central bank, which asked NDIC and a task force to take control of NBN's business on its behalf, said at the time that NBN had failed to respond to measures initiated by regulatory authorities to resolve the problems.

The NDIC, which oversees banks' deposit liabilities, said the owners had not been given a time limit to save NBN with an injection of about two billion naira.

An NBN official, quoted by the government-controlled weekly Business Times, told governors of the owner states the amount needed — enough to float 40 new banks — was unlikely to be forthcoming to resuscitate the "mortal, insolvent" bank.

NBN was among nine commercial banks which the NDIC classified as distressed in 1990, after seven in 1989. There are about 120 banks of all kinds in Nigeria.

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Bosnian Muslims accept reduced authority

UNPROFOR accuses Serbs of detaining general in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — The General commanding United Nations peacekeepers in Sarajevo was briefly detained at gunpoint in the besieged city Tuesday, prompting a sharp protest to Bosnia's Serb leadership.

A statement from the U.N. peacekeeping force (UNPROFOR) said General Hossain Abdul Razek and three of his staff were held by gunmen for 10 minutes Monday afternoon on the road to the city airport after a dispute over identity papers.

"UNPROFOR is protesting to the Serb leadership over this flagrant denial of freedom of movement for U.N. forces in the city," the statement said.

The incident was the first major dispute on the airport road since it was blocked by Muslim gunmen last Thursday.

The road is a vital conduit for airlifted aid supplies which the U.N. have been distributing to the city.

UNPROFOR said Gen. Abdul Razek, travelling with senior political affairs officer Mik Magnusson and two other aides in an armoured car, was stopped by 10 heavily-armed Serb gunmen who had stopped an armoured personnel carrier mounted with machineguns across their path.

"The Serbs refused to be satisfied with the identity documents presented at the windows of the vehicles and demanded to look inside," the statement said.

"In an effort to defuse the situation, the UNPROFOR sector commander permitted the troops to look inside the vehicles but not to carry out a search. The troops then allowed the UNPROFOR vehicles to continue on their journey."

Muslim gunmen blocked the road Thursday, saying they

feared a new offensive by Serb fighters who have been battling for control of Sarajevo since April.

But it was cleared again Sunday after UNPROFOR agreed to supervise security along the route during daylight hours.

The News Agency of the Bosnian Serbs, SRNA, said Tuesday that the Serb side rejected any UNPROFOR policing of the road, saying it was in the centre of a combat zone.

Serb fighters made their presence felt again Tuesday morning when three armed Serb gunmen jumped in front of Reuters' car and another vehicle at the same point on the road.

They took journalists to a police station in nearby Ilidza.

The defiance of U.N. peacekeepers by Serb gunmen in Sarajevo followed a show of strength by Serb police in Belgrade against the federal government.

Armed police loyal to Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic kept control of the federal Interior Ministry building Tuesday in a clear show of defiance to federal Prime Minister Milan Panic.

Serb officials have claimed their seizure of the building Sunday was a mere matter of asserting property rights.

But there were few doubts in Belgrade that the move was really a flexing of Serbian muscles in preparation for overt confrontation with the Yugoslav Federal government.

Whereas Mr. Milosevic is largely seen as fuelling Serbia's nationalist aspirations, Mr. Panic and Federal President Dobrica Cosic have advocated compromise in pursuit of peace.

Mr. Cosic, attending talks on Yugoslavia in Geneva, agreed Monday to respect the existing borders of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to work towards diplomatic recognition.

In Belgrade, parties opposing the Milosevic regime denounced the ministry occupation as a hot-headed provocation which would finally bring civil war to Serbia.

"President Milosevic has shown foolish resolve in his intention to provoke war in Serbia," the Serbian Renewal Movement said in a statement to the daily newspaper Borba.

"To keep his own position, this man is prepared to turn Belgrade into Sarajevo."

Sarajevo itself passed a relatively quiet night. But fierce mortar and artillery fire continued to pound riverside apartment blocks in the western Hrasno suburb where Serb fighters have been trying to dislodge Muslim defenders.

City residents were still without power, water and telephone lines Tuesday.

Sarajevo Radio reported a fresh attack on the key northern city of Gradacac, but there were no reports of casualties.

Croatian radio said three people were killed and eight were injured in an overnight artillery attack on the town of Bihać.

There was no independent confirmation of the figures.

A slight earthquake shook Sarajevo Monday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.

The tremor was recorded at a preliminary magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter scale and occurred at 2:41 local time (11:41 GMT), said Don Enley, a USGS spokesman.

USGS earthquake monitors in Golden, Colorado, reported that

German Greens founder, companion found dead

BONN (R) — German Greens Party founder Petra Kelly, a pioneer environmentalist, and companion Gerd Bastian were discovered dead in their Bonn home in a case of murder, suicide or both, the investigating prosecutor said Tuesday.

Presiding prosecutor Wolfgang Komp said the bodies of Ms. Kelly, 44, and former West German Major General Bastian, 69, were found in their modest apartment Monday night after relatives reported not hearing from them for some time.

"It could be a joint suicide, a murder with suicide or murder," Mr. Komp told reporters shortly after midnight outside the tidy house in Bonn's residential Tannenbusch district.

The partially decomposed bodies apparently lay in the flat for days before being discovered. Mr. Komp said there were wounds on the bodies but declined to specify whether a weapon or letter had been found.

Police planned a news conference later Tuesday on the autopsy results.

Ms. Kelly spent time in hospital earlier this year for treatment of what she called circulatory problems.

Ms. Kelly, a tireless advocate of environmentalism and nuclear disarmament with a flare for publicity and a hyperkinetic eloquence, became the Greens' best-known face after the party first entered parliament in the former West Germany in 1983.

Gen. Bastian, her companion since the early parliament days, joined the Greens after being forcibly retired from the army in 1980 for opposing NATO's deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe against the Soviet Union.

Russia suspends troop pullout from Baltics

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said Tuesday it was temporarily suspending the withdrawal of some of its troops from the Baltic states because there was nowhere for the men to live.

The move appears to be in line with the Kremlin's tougher stance towards the Baltic states which it says are discriminating against their Russian minorities.

"The withdrawal is temporarily halted until all questions linked to the settlement (of the troops) at new locations have been resolved," Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

A ministry spokesman said some troops would be withdrawn in line with an earlier plan, but with nowhere to go would stay. He gave no figures.

The statement did not say whether the withdrawal of troops from all three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — would be affected by the decision.

Moscow is already struggling to accommodate thousands of troops being pulled out of East European countries. Russia has asked the Baltic states help to build accommodation for the troops in Russia to accelerate the withdrawal.

About 130,000 Soviet troops were based in the Baltics when the three countries won their independence last year.

The U.S. State Department says about 40 per cent of the soldiers have already been pulled out. Russia has promised not to send any more new conscripts to the region.

Russia, opposed to the policy of the former Soviet Union, helped the Baltic states win independence after last year's failed hardline coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

But initial elation has soured on both sides amid rows about how fast the former Soviet troops could leave and over political and economic differences.

The former Soviet troops are under Russian control.

Russia has signed an agreement with Lithuania under which all Russian troops will leave the country by the end of August, 1993. But no deal has yet been sealed with Estonia or Latvia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said earlier this month Moscow would refuse to sign any accords on withdrawing troops from these two states until they agreed to guarantee minority rights for ethnic Russians.

Conservative Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi threatened economic sanctions against Estonia.

Estonia and Latvia have both introduced tough citizenship laws which Moscow says have effectively reduced their big Russian-speaking populations to second-class status.

The 40 per cent Russian minority in Estonia was barred from voting in national elections earlier this month.

At the United Nations in New York, Russia has accused the two states of discriminating against their Russian minorities. Both states rejected the accusations and have asked U.N. to help speed up the troop withdrawals.

Interfax News Agency said the Defence Ministry statement was issued after a meeting of top officials in Moscow.

The agency said 24,000 more troops had been scheduled to leave the region in 1992. But thousands of officers were already homeless in Russian regions where these troops were being sent.

German Greens founder, companion found dead

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Gen. Bastian, her companion since the early parliament days, joined the Greens after being forcibly retired from the army in 1980 for opposing NATO's deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe against the Soviet Union.

Diana's father leaves estate worth \$20 million

LONDON (R) — Earl Spencer, father of Britain's Princess Diana, left an estate worth nearly \$20 million (\$146 million) in his will published Monday. Diana, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, and her sister were left "mementoes" and Diana's two children Prince Harry and Prince William will each get £1,000 (\$1,622). The Earl died in March from a heart attack, aged 68. His widow Raine, Countess Spencer, received his cash and investments held by Global Asset Management, an annuity of £10,000 (\$16,220) and the contents of his houses. David Robinson, senior partner of Frere Cholmeley, solicitors acting for the executors, said "a very high proportion" of the value of the estate was accounted for by the contents of Althorp, the family's ancestral home. There was "a substantial liability" for inheritance tax which had yet to be worked out with the Inland Revenue, he added.

Frenchman left naked by ape

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A huge orang-utan ape stripped a French tourist as he was strolling in a Malaysian park on Borneo Island, an official said Tuesday. The 14-year-old male orang-utan grabbed the startled tourist and pulled off his pants, shirt and underwear as he stood motionless next to his wife, the national Bernama News Agency quoted the official as saying. The ape fled into the woods with the clothes, the agency said. The tourist ran naked to the park office and borrowed clothes from a group of tourists.

No Sex please, we're Australian

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's second largest bookstore chain Tuesday banned the sale of Madonna's book *Sex* after management peeked inside the sealed book. Dymocks, with 32 stores across Australia, admitted it was giving up lucrative sales from the book which depicts the American singer in erotic poses. "Our customers expect a certain standard at a Dymocks bookstore and for this reason we will not be selling *Sex*," said Dymocks' Managing Director Ken Terry in a statement. Australia's largest bookstore chain Angus and Robertson said Tuesday it had discussed banning the book, but rejected the idea and would start sales on Oct. 21, its worldwide release date.

Man survives 15 days on Arctic island eating snow

COPENHAGEN (AP) — A Danish fisherman survived for 15 days on a barren, Arctic island off Greenland by living under his upturned boat and eating snow, police said Monday. When Greenlandic fishermen first spotted Henrik Carlsen Sunday, they thought he was dead. "People here don't want to get involved when they see a dead body... So they rushed back to alert me," said Police Constable Mads Christensen in Upernivik, Greenland. "The fishermen didn't get close enough to see he was alive." Two hours later, police arrived at the island 450 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle and found the 30-year-old Dane. He was suffering from exhaustion, had frost-bitten feet, and had lost 20 kilos (44 pounds), Mr. Christensen said. Mr. Carlsen stopped at the island to seek shelter after he lost his way and his boat ran out of fuel. A search for him was abandoned five days after he disappeared during a fishing trip on Oct. 3. On the way to the clinic in Upernivik, Mr. Carlsen told Mr. Christensen he ate snow to survive because there was nothing else on the snow-covered island.

Finland court starts row with fine for word Russki

HELSINKI (R) — A court in neutral Finland has made it expensive to use the derogatory slang term "Russki" about Russians. Helsinki City Court fined a Finnish market trader 10 days' pay for using the word in a row with a fellow dealer, a Russian-born citizen. The ruling that "Russki" was a term of abuse could have some odd results, Finland's biggest newspaper said. Finnish market places have become a venue for Russians who bring goods, including illicit alcoholic beverages, across the border to sell for hard currency.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

8 injured in Moscow grenade attack

MOSCOW (R) — A grenade attack has injured eight people near the Moscow branch of McDonald's but police said Tuesday it was not aimed at the restaurant, a leading symbol of Western consumerism in Russia's capital. A senior police officer said two drunks, one with a history of clashes with the police, threw a grenade at Police Station Number 108 on a street leading onto Moscow's central Pushkin Square Monday evening. "The explosion was directed against the police station. It had nothing to do with McDonald's whatsoever," Yuri Fedoseyev, head of the Moscow Police Criminal Investigations Department, told reporters. "It was an ordinary crime... we do not know what the motive was," he said. Security Ministry spokesman Alexander Mikhailov told Interfax News Agency that the RGD-5 army grenade had bounced off window bars and landed on the pavement, where it exploded, several windows were broken in the blast. The most seriously hurt victim, a five-year-old girl from Afghanistan with head and hand wounds, was not in any immediate danger, Mr. Fedoseyev said.

Hong Kong governor arrives in China

PEKING (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten arrived in Peking Tuesday with the daunting task of trying to sell China the idea of democracy for the British colony before it returns to Chinese rule in 1997. Peking has already slammed the door on Patten's sales pitch, with angry denunciations of his plans to expand Hong Kong's voting base coming almost daily from Chinese-controlled newspapers in the territory. "We'll have some important discussions during the next couple of days, but the most important thing is, I think, to get to know one another," Mr. Patten told reporters at Peking Airport. "There's a great deal to do, and I'm sure we will manage to accomplish it successfully."

15 killed in Soviet plane crash

MOSCOW (AP) — A small plane crashed in northern Russia, killing 15 people, officials said. The crash of the Antonov-28 plane occurred near the town of Ust Nem, about 1,100 kilometres northeast of Moscow, according to Russian Television. One child was among the 15 dead, the report said. A spokesman for the Russian Air Transport Department confirmed the television report but declined to give any additional details. A government commission was appointed to investigate the crash. The plane, which has two turboprop engines, can carry 17 passengers and a crew of two.

15 die in Taiwan hotel blaze

TAIPEI (R) — Fire swept through a hotel in the southern Taiwan city of Kaohsiung before dawn Tuesday, killings 15 people and injuring 13 in a suspected arson attack, police said. The boy-friend of a hotel employee was suspected of setting the fire and police were questioning him, a spokesman for the city police said by telephone. He declined to elaborate. About 200 firefighters fought the blaze for two hours and rescued dozens of guests from the seven-storey Hwa Chi Hotel. Firefighters found nine bodies at the hotel and six other people were pronounced dead at hospitals. The dead, five men and 10 women, either burned to death or suffocated except for one who jumped to her death from the fourth floor, police said. All were Taiwanese.

Japanese boy shot in U.S.

BATON ROUGE, LA. (AP) — A Japanese high school exchange student who knew little English was shot to death when he stopped at the wrong house while looking for a party and did not heed the homeowner's order to "freeze," Capt. Bob Shortess of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Department, said Yoshihiro Hattori was shot in the chest and died a short time later. Hattori, 16, and a friend knocked at a door of the home of Rodney Pears, who came to the door armed with a .44-caliber Magnum revolver and told the boys to freeze. When one of the boys moved, Mr. Pears fired, Shortess said. It happened at a house only a few doors away from the Halloween party the boys were trying to find, he said. Members of the family who had hosted Hattori in Baton Rouge since August said he might not have known enough English to understand Mr. Pears. "I don't think if the man said 'freeze' Yoshi would understand what that means," said Holley Haymaker, a member of the family. "He had trouble understanding English, and I'm sure he didn't know what 'freeze' meant. She said her son, the friend accompanying Hattori, had seen that Mr. Pears was armed and shouted a warning that Hattori apparently did not understand. Hattori was moving toward Pears when he was shot, she said.

RENAMO rebels seize Mozambican port — radio

MAPUTO (R) — Guerrillas of the former RENAMO rebel movement have stormed and occupied Mozambique's northern port of Angoche, Nampula's provincial governor said.

Alfredo Gamito was quoted by Mozambique's state-run radio as saying the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) movement took over the coastal town at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) Sunday.

The attack followed a ceasefire accord, signed in Rome on Oct. 4, between President Joaquim Chissano and RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakana to end the 16-year civil war, which has claimed the lives of around a million people.

Mr. Gamito, speaking in the provincial capital, Nampula, said no one was killed in the assault but a number of people were slightly injured as they fled. He gave no further details.

Jerónimo Malaguetta, head of RENAMO's military mission, refused to comment on the situation in Angoche, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported Monday. It quoted him as saying he had to wait for the delegation's

political officer to return to Maputo from a short trip to a nearby province.

The Mozambican News Agency (AIM) described the attack as "an open violation of the ceasefire."

U.N. observers, who arrived in Maputo last week to monitor the ceasefire, were due to deploy to the main port of Beira and to Nampula Tuesday.

RENAMO accused the government last Friday of violating the peace pact and threatened to retaliate. It said the government had launched offensive operations and occupied zones considered RENAMO territory in the northern provinces of Tete, Nampula and Zambezi.

But the independent Mediaset News Letter Monday quoted the military commander in Nampula as denying there was any government offensive in the province.

Meanwhile an estimated 5,000 Zimbabwean troops will begin withdrawing from Mozambique Wednesday under a ceasefire accord signed between the Maputo government and its rebel foes, Zimbabwe officials said Tuesday.

Clinton, Perot share good news in post-debate polls

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Ross Perot, the candidate with the least to lose in Monday's presidential debate, apparently gained the most, according to post-debate polls Monday night.

In a CNN-USA Today poll, Gallup asked 423 registered voters which candidate did the best job. Thirty-seven per cent said Mr. Perot, 28 per cent each for Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton. Twelve per cent said the debate made them switch their preference, and more than half of them switched to Mr. Perot.

Mr. Clinton did better in an ABC News poll, with 35 per cent rating him best in the debate, 30 per cent Mr. Perot and 23 per cent Mr. Bush. Those polled were 821 registered voters who saw or heard the debate.

An ABC News poll found 36 per cent regarded Mr. Clinton as the winner, 26 per cent said Mr. Perot won and 21 per cent gave the victory to Mr. Bush. Twelve per cent called it a tie and the rest didn't know.

The 710 registered voters in the ABC survey had been polled previously about their presidential preference. After they watched the debate, their support of Mr. Bush was unchanged at 29 per cent. Mr. Clinton's support dropped slightly from 52 per cent to 48 per cent, and enough undecided voters switched to Mr. Perot to raise his support from 11 per cent to 19 per cent among those polled.

Apparently, those polled responded differently to ABC's "who won?" and Gallup's question, which asks voters to disregard their preference in rating debate performance.

A CBS News poll asked 387 registered voters who watched the debate who "did the best job — or won?" and gave a Clinton-Perot tie at 30 per cent, with 23 per cent each for Mr. Bush. The margins of error were 5 points for CBS' and CNN's polls and 4 points for the other polls.

In a jousting, climactic campaign debate Monday night, President Bush charged Mr. Clinton would "sock it to the middle class" if elected president. Mr. Clinton pledged, point-blank: "I am not going to raise taxes on the middle class to pay" for his initiatives.

Fifteen days before the Nov. 3 election, the fur was flying — so much so that at one point Mr. Bush suggested that Mr. Clinton's home-state of Arkansas was the "lowest of the low." That drew a quick and passionate defence from the five-term governor.

Mr. Perot, the third man on the debate stage, stressed his non-politician's background in pledging to work on economic and other problems. The Texas billionaire said he was "pounding \$60 million of his own fortune on his independent bid for the White House."

Mr. Bush was aggressive throughout the 90-minute debate, charging that on issues as diverse as free trade and the draft, Mr. Clinton had a pattern of "trying to have it all ways."

Mr. Clinton, the frontrunner, said that Abraham Lincoln, too, had once opposed a war — the civil war. Mr. Clinton said he could send Americans into battle if necessary to protect the nation's interests and pointed out

that other presidents — such as Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt — had done so without having served in uniform.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton debated over issues as diverse as trade to auto efficiency standards to the banking system, but the sharpest exchanges came over the economy and Mr. Bush's attempt to raise doubts about Mr. Clinton's trustworthiness.

Mocking Mr. Bush's announcement that former Secretary of State James Baker would take command of domestic policy in a second Bush term, Mr. Clinton said in his government, the person "responsible for economic policy will be Bill Clinton."

Mr. Bush broke in swiftly: "That's what worries me."

Mr. Bush claimed the economic record of his administration was not so bad, and that many Americans had benefited from low interest rates and low inflation.

He angrily fended off Mr. Perot's allegations that the administration had mishandled the situation with Iraq before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Perot, and then Mr. Clinton, both criticised Mr. Bush for his handling of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein before the Iraqis invaded Kuwait. Mr. Bush replied that there wasn't an "iota of evidence" that Iraqis had gained access to American weapons through administration decisions to work with Saddam.

The president accused Mr. Clinton of ducking firm answers on issues ranging from a free trade agreement to tougher fuel efficiency standards to questions surrounding his Vietnam era draft record.

The debate began with stark disagreements between the candidates.

Mr. Bush predicted that Mr. Clinton would "sock it to the middle class" and Mr. Clinton retorted that the president had signed a large tax increase himself and then "vetted middle class tax relief (earlier) this year."

Mr. Clinton said Mr. Bush advocated a policy of "trickle down economics" that has brought pain to the middle class. "I believe we can do better if we have the courage to change," he said.

The two men traded statistics on how well Mr. Clinton's state was doing.

Mr. Perot listened to the exchange, then swiftly labeled it irrelevant. He said just because someone can run a "small grocery store on the corner" doesn't mean someone can run "Wal-Mart."

It was the last in a quartet of debates — three involving the presidential candidates and one for the running mates.

A panel of debate coaches who judged the contest for the Associated Press called Mr. Bush a one-point winner, 126 to Mr. Clinton's 125 and Mr. Perot's 122. Two judges called Mr. Bush the winner, two called Mr. Clinton the winner and the fifth saw it as a Bush-Perot tie.

Mr. Perot unleashed a full-fledged temper tantrum after the third presidential debate Monday night, saying reporters had been "acting like a bunch of jerks."

Apparently frustrated at reports that despite a multimillion-dollar television advertising blitz, polls showed his independent

presidential campaign was still lagging far behind, the feisty computer tycoon blasted reporters.

"You guys hate the fact that I'm in the race, you hate the fact that the American people put me on the ballot," Mr. Perot said. It was his most vitriolic attack against the press, which he has previously criticised, but without the vehemence he displayed late Monday.

"I don't care, have fun," Mr. Perot told a small group of reporters in a post-debate news conference. "Raise hell. I don't care what you do, have fun."

He told a reporter for Time magazine, "your magazine is a joke" and told a New York Times reporter: "I have to be real careful when you ask a question."

Mr. Perot accused the media of failing to report the enthusiasm and support shown at rallies of his backers.

"All these nice people you saw sitting in the audience here tonight at this rally, you saw their mood — I don't ever expect to hear it or see it in the paper but you saw it so we'll keep it a secret between us," he said sarcastically.

When asked how he felt he had done in the debate with Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush, Mr. Perot's famous temper took over. "I'll leave that up to you fellows in the press," he said. "You all just continue your day-in, day-out negative statements about it and we'll let people decide in November."

"I think you have an enormous responsibility under the First Amendment and you don't discharge it," he said.